A

SUMMARY

OF

UNIVERSAL HISTORY,

FROM

THE CREATION

TO THE

PRESENT TIME.

IN LETTERS FROM A FATHER TO HIS SON.

By FRANCIS DOBBS, Esq.

MEMBER FOR THE BOROUGH OF CHARLEMONT, IN IRELAND.

VOL. VII.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY S. SAEL AND CO. NO. 192, STRAND.

1800.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

Printed by S. Gosnell,
Little Queen Street, Holborn.

SEVENTH VOLUME.

TENTH ÆRA.

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OF

Univerſal Hiſtory,

Commencing in the Year 1085, *and ending in the Year* 1453.

FIRST LETTER.

THIS Letter ſhall be dedicated to the hiſtory of thoſe countries, which had formed the Saracen empire. Theſe were now chiefly in the hands of the Turks, who however profeſſed the Mahometan religion, as well as thoſe deſcendants of the Arabs, who had ſubmitted to their arms.

In 1085 you have ſeen Malec at the head of the Seljukian dynaſty of the Turks, to whom in fact the Saracen caliph of Bagdad was perfectly ſubſervient. For though Malec as Emir Al-Omra, was nominally his ſervant, the remaining power of the caliph was exerciſed entirely as the Turkiſh prince directed.

On the death of Malec, there were ſome conteſts for the office of Emir, but it was at length given to his ſon Bakirack. Under Malec and Bakirack, the empire left by Alp-Arſlan had been greatly diſmembered: and a number of new Turkiſh kingdoms had ariſen. Their princes however paid a ſort of acknowledgment to Bakirack, as monarch of their moſt powerful tribe. But they claimed and exerciſed the right of making war, without conſulting him; not only with the remaining Saracen ſtates, but alſo with each other. A new and unprecedented attack upon Aſia, and in fact on all the followers of Mahomet, for a time however, made them ſuſpend their animoſities. What I allude to, are the cruſaders, and an account of their extraordinary undertaking, will properly blend itſelf

with what I have before mentioned to be the ſubject of this letter.

When you reflect on the miſery of the world from the death of Chriſt, to that of Gregory VII; you muſt be aſtoniſhed when I tell you that numbers conceived the 1000 years of happineſs predicted by St. John, to be expired. This ſtrange error, was attended by another, namely, that the end of the world was at hand, and pilgrimages to the Holy Land being deemed peculiarly holy, multitudes viſited Jeruſalem. Amongſt theſe was a monk, ſince known by the name of Peter the Hermit; and on his return he loudly complained of the ill treatment, he and thoſe who were his companions, had received from the Saracens who were then in poſſeſſion of Judea. To remedy this, he propoſed, that all Chriſtian kingdoms ſhould unite in wreſting that country out of the hands of Infidels; and Pope Urban II. who was as anxious to extend his power, as Gregory had been before him, was eaſily induced to favor the deſign of Peter. Thus ſanctioned, the monk, with a rope round his waiſt, and a cru-

cifix in his hand, publicly ſet out to preach the holineſs of the undertaking. Thoſe who acceded to it, wore on their right ſhoulders a red croſs, and the motto on their ſtandards was—It is the will of God.—A religious frenzy now ſeized all deſcriptions of people, from the king to the beggar; and even women concealing their ſex, engaged as cruſaders. To become one was believed an atonement for every crime, and to be an undoubted paſſport to Heaven.

As Peter had laid the plan, ſo was he the firſt to lead the way. At the head of an undiſciplined rabble, conſiſting of 80,000 men, he took the road to Conſtantinople by Hungary and Bulgaria. Totally unprovided with every thing, they firſt ſupplied their wants by pillaging and murdering the Jews, wherever they met with them. But what they thus got being inſufficient, they attacked the other inhabitants indiſcriminately. In return, the countries through which they paſſed, roſe in arms: and they ſuffered ſo ſeverely, by famine, diſeaſe, and the

ſword, that not more than 20,000 reached the capital of the Greek empire.

Godeſcalus, another preacher followed Peter, with a new body of cruſaders, before he had heard of the fate of the firſt. The moment the Hungarians perceived the red croſs, it was the ſignal for hoſtilities, and not one of theſe eſcaped. A great part of a third armament, amounting to 200,000 men, likewiſe ſhared the ſame fate. Such however as reached Conſtantinople, put themſelves under the direction of Peter, as did alſo a conſiderable body that had arrived from Italy, by another route: and Alexius Comnenus the then Greek Emperor, glad to get rid of them, furniſhed them with the means of paſſing into Aſia-Minor. There they were engaged by Solyman the Turkiſh ſultan of Nice: and Peter being no general, and his forces without diſcipline, moſt of them were cut to pieces. The remainder, with the monk at their head, ſaved themſelves by retreating to Conſtantinople.

The fate of theſe firſt cruſaders, from the folly of their conduct, might have been eaſily

foreſeen; but now a very formidable and well appointed army was arrayed for this undertaking. The principal leader was Godfrey of Bouillon, who brought into the field 70,000 foot and 10,000 horſe. Raymond count of Toulouſe, who poſſeſſed Languedoc and a part of Provence, was at the head of 100,000 men. Bohemond, the ſon of Robert Guiſcard duke of Apulia, as alſo Robert duke of Normandy, led conſiderable bodies; and a number of inferior leaders attended with their followers. This army altogether amounted to 100,000 horſe and 600,000 foot, and alarmed the Greek emperor nearly as much as the Mahometans. On their approach to Conſtantinople, ſome ſkirmiſhes took place between the Greeks and the cruſaders, but the emperor not being able to oppoſe ſo formidable a force, ſoothed them by preſents, and furniſhed them with the means of paſſing into Aſia. It was however agreed, that they ſhould do him homage for any conqueſt they ſhould make in that quarter of the globe. They had now a conſiderable proſpect of ſucceſs; having contracted with the Greeks, and alſo with

the ſtates of Genoa and Piſa for neceſſary ſupplies: and their ſkill and mode of fighting being far ſuperior to thoſe they were about to contend with.

Solyman the Sultan of Nice made a gallant oppoſition, but that city was taken in 1097. The cruſaders then penetrated through Meſopotamia, Cilicia, and Syria, taking ſeveral places in their way, and at length Jeruſalem fell into their hands in 1099. Having taken it by aſſault, they put every one who was not a Chriſtian to the ſword: and behaved with the moſt bloody inhumanity. They then raiſed Godfrey of Bouillon to the dukedom and government of Jeruſalem. But though they had thus become maſters of that city, which was the great object of the cruſade, they had, from one cauſe or other, loſt the greateſt part of that vaſt body which had paſſed from Europe to Aſia.

Jeruſalem had belonged to the Saracen caliph of Egypt, and he and ſeveral other Mahometan princes now marched againſt Paleſtine. With a far inferior force Godfrey engaged them at Aſcalon, and after a deſperate battle, he ob-

tained a complete victory. This he did not long ſurvive, and his brother Baldwin who ſucceeded him, took the title of king of Jeruſalem.

The Venetians had at firſt avoided any active part in the cruſades, from the beneficial trade they carried on with Aſia. But this ſucceſs of the Chriſtians made them alter their conduct, and aſſiſting in the conqueſt of Tripoli and its territory, a part was given to them, and the reſt to Bertrand count of Toulouſe. Other lordſhips and principalities were eſtabliſhed, amongſt which we find the territories of the counts of Joppa, the marquiſſes of Gallilee, Sidon, Acra, and Cæſarea, and the principality of Antioch.

The cruſaders had no ſooner eſtabliſhed themſelves in their new poſſeſſions, than they quarrelled with each other: and their loſſes by the climate and by war in a ſhort time reduced their numbers ſo much, as to render their ſituation extremely perilous. To ſtrengthen their forces, a number of monks, who had dedicated themſelves to take care of the ſick, now girded on the ſword. They formed themſelves into a

military aſſociation, called the Knights Hoſpitallers, or Knights of St. John, and Raymond Dupuy a native of Dauphiny was their firſt grandmaſter. Another body of monks, who had fixed themſelves in Jeruſalem where Solomon's temple had ſtood, imitated this example, taking the name of Knights Templars. Thoſe two bodies were made up of Frenchmen: and a body of German monks afterwards aſſociated in like manner under the appellation of Knights of the Teutonic order. Theſe inſtitutions, partly eccleſiaſtical, and partly military, met the full approbation of the ſee of Rome, and they became of conſiderable conſequence. But with all the exertions the cruſaders could make, they were ſurrounded with dangers the moſt alarming. The Greek emperor had declared againſt them, as not having fulfilled their engagement of doing him homage for their conqueſts. The Turks made ſeveral ſucceſsful attacks; and they at length found that nothing, but a new cruſade, could enable them to remain in Aſia.

Eugenius III. who was at this time Pope, was no ſooner applied to, than he employed St.

Bernard Abbot of Clervaux, who was the moſt diſtinguiſhed man of his times, for piety and eloquence, to exert himſelf in the cauſe of the new cruſade. This he did with ſo much ſucceſs, that Lewis VII. king of France and his queen Eleanor, aſſumed the red croſs, as did alſo the emperor Conrad III. and all the great men in both their dominions followed the example. 140,000 knights clad in armour, and mounted on horſeback, were amongſt the number. Beſides theſe, 160,000 light horſe and infantry took the field. But the two monarchs did not act in concert, and Conrad anxious to outſtrip Lewis in glory, arrived firſt in the plains of Conſtantinople. Loſing a number of men whilſt in this ſituation, an idea was entertained that the Greeks had mixed lime with their meal, and had alſo poiſoned the ſprings of water: but it is much more probable that the diſeaſes that carried them off, aroſe from change of climate and intemperance. It was not however without ſome difficulty, that Manuel Comnenus the eaſtern emperor, ſatisfied Conrad and his followers: and having done ſo, he gladly aſſiſted

in conveying them to Aſia-Minor. The emperor there found the ſultan of Iconium ready to oppoſe him; and though Lewis was on his march to join him, he raſhly advanced into the country without waiting for his arrival. The conſequence was the entire loſs of his army, but he himſelf, though wounded, eſcaped, and in the habit of a pilgrim reached the Holy Land, as did a few of his followers. The raſhneſs of Conrad not only ruined his own forces, but paved the way for the deſtruction of thoſe under Lewis. And moſt of the latter fell by the ſword, and diſeaſe, in penetrating to Jeruſalem, where Lewis at length arrived, with a very ſmall part of that army, which he had landed in Aſia-Minor.

It is here neceſſary to mention ſome material changes that had taken place in the Mahometan ſtates of Aſia; but without troubling you with the internal broils and aſſaſſinations, that diſgraced them all. Nurredin, the Turkiſh ſultan of Syria and the adjoining countries had become extremely formidable, not only to the Chriſtians, but to the Saracen caliphs of Egypt.

This produced a league between the two latter; and when the former attacked Egypt, Amaury the then king of Jeruſalem marched an army to its defence. Inſtead however of acting as an ally, he ſeized ſeveral places for himſelf. This conduct brought about a treaty between Shawer the vizir of the caliph, and Shairacu, Nurredin's general: the conſequence of which was, the expulſion of the Chriſtians from Egypt.

Shairacu, who was a Perſian of the warlike province of Curdes, now endeavoured to ſupplant Shawer the vizir and favorite of the caliph. In this he ſucceeded, and the latter being put to death, the former, who had left the ſervice of Nurredin, ſettled in Egypt. He did not however long ſurvive his elevation to the poſt of vizir; and on his death his nephew Saladin obtained that office.

From his ſituation, Saladin was now enabled to amaſs great riches, which he employed to forward the great object of his ambition. By under-hand means, he made the people conſider the reigning race of caliphs as uſurpers, they being of the Fatemite dynaſty; at the ſame

time inculcating, that the caliphs of Bagdad were the only true vicegerents of Mahomet. The public mind being thus prepared, Saladin, on the death of the then caliph, which was probably a violent one, had the caliph of Bagdad proclaimed; and thus ended the Fatemite ſucceſſion in Egypt.

All the accumulated wealth of the Egyptian caliphs, by this revolution, fell into the hands of Saladin. Part of this he applied to ſecure the fidelity of his own forces, and he ſent a large ſum to Nurredin, who was the Al-Omra to the then caliph of Bagdad. By doing ſo, he hoped to be regularly appointed to govern Egypt. But Nurredin foreſaw that this would only be a ſtep to his becoming independent: and he was preparing to march againſt Saladin when death averted his purpoſe.

Al-Saleh the ſucceſſor of Nurredin, being only ten years old, Saladin, who now took the title of ſultan, diligently ſtrengthened himſelf during the minority. And by the time Alſaleh had attained to manhood, he had made himſelf ſo powerful, that he was able to conquer Syria,

Perſia, Meſopotamia, and a great part of Arabia. He then compelled Al-Saleh to make peace on the terms of that prince's relinquiſhing every thing but Aleppo and its adjoining territory.

During the conteſt with Al-Saleh, Saladin was wounded by an aſſaſſin, hired for that purpoſe from the old man of the mountain; whoſe infamous government I mentioned in the laſt æra. The ſultan of Egypt now reſolved on vengeance, and marching againſt him he took Maſſiat his chief city, putting moſt of its inhabitants to the ſword. He was however induced to ſpare the old man, and the reſt of his ſubjects, by their humble ſubmiſſions. Thus in every quarter ſucceſsful, the caliph of Bagdad of neceſſity made him his Emir Al-Omra, and ſent him the uſual inveſtiture of the territories he had acquired.

Such was the ſtate of Aſiatic affairs, when the emperor and the king of France arrived at Jeruſalem; ſoon after which the Chriſtians made an attack on Damaſcus, which proved unſucceſsful. This was chiefly owing to want of unanimity amongſt the aſſailants. The firſt

cruſaders were fearful that the new comers would require part of their poſſeſſions, and their jealouſy ſoon becoming conſpicuous, both Cŏnrad and Lewis returned to Europe.

When Damaſcus was attacked, Saladin had been employed in ſettling his new acquired conqueſts, but he now entered Paleſtine with an army far ſuperior to that of the cruſaders. Renaud de Chatillon, who commanded the latter, however proved victorious, and made himſelf maſter of the camp of his opponent. From the inferiority of his numbers, Renaud was unable to follow up this blow: and the exertions of the Chriſtians were ſtill further retarded by a diſpute as to the ſucceſſion to the crown of Jeruſalem. On the death of Baldwin its king, without iſſue, Raymond, count of Tripolis, his next male heir, claimed that diadem. But Sybilla, the mother of Baldwin, and who was not free from the ſuſpicion of having poiſoned him, was able to raiſe her ſecond huſband, Guy de Luſignan to the vacant throne.

The chriſtians were ſo inferior in number to the forces of Saladin, that they were glad to

enter into an alliance with the prince of Aleppo, and other princes of the ſame family. Various battles, with various ſucceſs, were fought between theſe allies and the ſultan of Egypt. But it ended in Saladin's forcing Amadodin, the brother and ſucceſſor of Al-Saleh to deliliver up Aleppo, and ſubmit to the moſt humiliating terms. He then gave the Chriſtians a dreadful overthrow, owing, as it was ſuppoſed, to the treachery of Raymond, count of Tripolis. The conduct of the conqueror on this occaſion was a mixture of cruelty and generoſity. To Luſignan and Sybilla his queen, and the marquis of Montſerrat, all of whom had fallen into his hands, he behaved with the utmoſt humanity. So he did to the inhabitants of Jeruſalem, that city having ſurrendered ſoon after the victory. But he had two hundred knights of the templars and hoſpitall rs put to death in cold blood; and he with his own hand ſtruck off the head of the brave Renaud de Chatillon. His particular animoſity againſt Renaud was owing to a ſucceſsful expedition which he had headed againſt Mecca and Medina, thoſe places

being deemed by the Mahometans particularly holy. And it muſt be owned that both Renaud and the knights templars and hoſpitallers had on many occaſions behaved with great barbarity.

The fall of Jeruſalem led to the taking many other places, and in a very ſhort time little was left to the cruſaders except their fortreſſes on the ſea coaſt. But the news of the holy city being again in the hands of infidels no ſooner reached Europe, than a higher ſpirit for cruſading than had ever before appeared, broke out in every quarter. This was encouraged by Pope Clement III. who began with making Henry II. of England, and Philip Auguſtus of France, lay aſide a quarrel they were engaged in, and unite in aſſuming the red croſs. Their chief ſubjects either followed the example, or contributed large ſums of money to the enterpriſe. Frederic Barbaroſſa, emperor of Germany, though ſeventy years old, alſo took the field, attended by moſt of the German princes. The republics of Genoa and Piſa, who had been at variance with each other, were reconciled, that they alſo might co-operate. Though in

ſome of the former cruſades, greater numbers were engaged; this, from the perſonages embarked in it, and the ſuperior ſkill and armament of the troops, was the moſt formidable that had yet taken place: and every precaution was uſed to enſure its ſucceſs.

In the beginning of the year 1189, Frederic Barbaroſſa took the route of Conſtantinople, at the head of 150,000 men. This was highly diſagreeable to Iſaac Angelus, the Greek emperor, who was now in alliance with Saladin, and he ſent an army to oppoſe them. Frederic however gained a complete victory, and impoſed his own terms on the vanquiſhed; one of which was, an immediate conveyance into Aſia-Minor. Being landed there, Barbaroſſa expected a friendly reception from Kilij Arſlan, ſultan of Iconium, agreeable to a previous treaty between them; Arſlan, who was of the Seljukian Turkiſh family, being an avowed enemy of Saladin. But Arſlan's ſons had before this ſucceſsfully rebelled againſt him, and they thought proper to oppoſe the German army. Several battles were the conſequence, till at

length Iconium their capital was taken by Frederic. Beſides immenſe treaſures, a plentiful ſupply of proviſions was found there: and Arſlan having been reconciled to his ſons, Barbaroſſa granted him a peace on the terms he ſolicited. The emperor then proceeded, but loſing his life in conſequence of bathing in the river Cydnus, the command devolved on his ſon, the duke of Suabia, who arrived in the Holy Land, at the head of only 8000 men, being all that remained of the 150,000 that originally compoſed his father's army.

During the time the Germans had been thus advancing by land, great numbers of cruſaders had arrived by ſea from different quarters, under the command of biſhops and other leaders. Theſe, added to thoſe already in Paleſtine, amounted to 100,000 foot, and 40,000 horſe, all well appointed; and they ſolicited Guy de Luſignan, who had been ſet at liberty by Saladin, on taking an oath never to fight againſt him, to take the command. Guy at firſt refuſed, but, under the direction of the clergy, he broke his oath, and put himſelf at their head.

They then beſieged the city of Ptolemais, a ſea port on the Mediterranean, that was of the utmoſt importance. Saladin feeling it was ſo, advanced to its relief. But he received a dreadful overthrow, and his army might have been totally deſtroyed, had not the Chriſtians, all but the knights templars, fell to plundering the camp, inſtead of purſuing a flying enemy.

Not long after this ſucceſs, the king of France, and Richard king of England, who had ſucceeded his father Henry, arrived by ſea, with their forces. The whole army of cruſaders now amounted to 300,000 men, and, after various battles, Ptolemais, in the year 1190, at length ſurrendered. One article of the capitulation was, that the garriſon ſhould be ſpared, on the payment of a certain ranſome. This Saladin refuſed to perform, and, to the indelible diſgrace of Richard, he cauſed his ſhare of the priſoners, amounting to 3000, to be put to death.

During the ſiege of Ptolemais, Luſignan's wife died. It was thereupon alledged his right to the crown of Jeruſalem expired with her, and that Iſabella her ſiſter was entitled. She was

married to a nobleman of the name of Thoron, but the marquis of Montſerrat had gained her affections. It was therefore alledged that Thoron obtained her by force, before ſhe was of age. On ſome real or fictitious evidence of this, the biſhop of Ptolemais diſſolved the marriage, and ſhe then gave her hand to Montſerrat. An agreement was now made with Luſignan, that he ſhould poſſeſs the crown for life, and that it ſhould afterwards go to Iſabella, and her children by her new huſband.

The king of England claimed to be the leader of the cruſaders, and he ſucceeded. Philip of France, who could not brook this ſuperiority, then returned to his own country. He however left a conſiderable body of troops behind him, under the command of the duke of Burgundy. But the marquis of Montſerrat, who was alſo offended, withdrew all his forces, and retired to his principality of Tyre.

Richard ſtill found himſelf at the head of about 100,000 men, and with it he marched towards Jeruſalem, though Saladin was ready to oppoſe him with an army of thrice that number.

In the action that followed, the two leaders engaged hand to hand; and the Engliſh monarch unhorſed his adverſary, though he was not able to take him priſoner. He however gained the victory, though he did not follow it up with judgment. Several other battles enſued, in which Richard diſplayed the moſt undaunted courage; but finding he was not likely to gain any real advantage, he at length thought proper to conclude a truce for three years, and as many months, days and hours. By it, all unarmed Chriſtians were to have free leave to perform their pilgrimages to Jeruſalem; and the ſettlements on the ſea coaſt from Tyre to Joppa were confirmed to the cruſaders.

Richard, in his voyage to the Holy Land, had made himſelf maſter of Cyprus, and having failed in reſtoring Jeruſalem to Luſignan, he made him king of that iſland. Being eager to reviſit England, he then embarked in a ſhip, which was afterwards wrecked in the Gulph of Venice, and the unfortunate king fell into the hands of the duke of Auſtria, whom he had inſulted in the Holy Land, and who had there-

upon left him in diſguſt. Richard was afterwards handed over to the emperor Henry VI. who, under one pretence or other, detained him till he received a conſiderable ranſome.

About this period, the marquis of Montferrat was aſſaſſinated at Tyre by two Batoniſts, that being a name given to the ſubjects of the old man of the mountain. They had got admiſſion to him under the diſguiſe of Chriſtian monks; and they ſuffered deaths of torture without making any diſcovery of their motives. A ſuſpicion now fell on Richard king of England, as he and the marquis had been on bad terms. The old man of the mountain however cleared that matter up, by avowing in a letter directed to Leopold duke of Auſtria, that it had been done by his orders. He at the ſame time added, it was in revenge for one of his people being plundered and put to death at Tyre, and for which he had in vain demanded reparation.

In the year 1195, Saladin died at Damaſcus, which he had made the capital of his empire. He left his dominions amongſt his children, his brother, and ſome others of his near relations,

at the ſame time giving a ſort of ſuperiority over all to his eldeſt ſon Afdal. The conſequence was, a ſucceſſion of civil wars, which ended in the exaltation of Adel, or Saphadin, Saladin's brother, to the ſovereignty over Damaſcus, Paleſtine, Egypt, and moſt of the territories that had conſtituted Saladin's empire.

The Chriſtians in Aſia would have been deſtroyed but for theſe diviſions amongſt the Mahometans, and the Pope in vain endeavoured to make the emperor Henry VI. perform a promiſe he had made of going to their aid. Some others, chiefly French and Venetians, however, put on the croſs, and ſet out for Paleſtine. But they in their way beſieged and made themſelves maſters of Conſtantinople, and gave up their firſt intentions.

The Chriſtians in the Eaſt were put in a perilous ſituation by this change in the deſtination of the new cruſaders. For ſome time they owed nearly their whole ſupport to the different orders of knights that the cruſades had given riſe to. At length the Pope and ſome other princes of Europe, encouraged John de Brienne,

a nobleman of France, who had married the eldeſt daughter of the marquis of Montferrat, to undertake a new expedition. Luſignan being dead, de Brienne, in right of his wife, took the title of king of Jeruſalem; and his efforts were ſo ſucceſsful, that he in a ſhort time found himſelf at the head of 100,000 men, aſſembled at the city of Ptolemais.

It again becomes neceſſary to take a conciſe view of what had been the Saracen empire, particularly in Aſia and Egypt. Saphadin had the latter, together with Paleſtine, and moſt part of Syria. Princes of the Turkiſh Seljukian dynaſty ſtill poſſeſſed the greater part of Aſia-Minor; and Mohammed, the head of that family, had Khoroaſm, with the title of emperor. Shabaoddin, another Mahometan prince, was poſſeſſed of Gazan, and a part of India. Bagdad, with its territory, ſtill belonged to a caliph of the houſe of Al-Abbas: but about this time, the caliphat was diſputed, by a prince of the houſe of Ali, whoſe claims were ſupported by the emperor of Khoroaſm. There were ſeveral other

petty Mahometan princes ſcattered throughout Aſia, and all were eternally at war with each other; ſo that any real vigorous and united effort of the Chriſtians was not unlikely to prevail. De Briene however had no important ſucceſs, and even after the arrival of Andrew king of Hungary, with a freſh body of cruſaders, nothing material took place. Andrew did not long continue, and the Chriſtian cauſe in Aſia became again extremely precarious.

The next reinforcement of cruſaders was under the command of the earl of Holland, and ſome other noblemen, and they now undertook the ſiege of Damietta in Egypt, during which, Coradin, who had ſucceeded his father Saphadin, died. Meledin, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Coradin, then endeavoured to raiſe the ſiege. His efforts were in vain, and a freſh body of Chriſtians arriving under cardinal D'Albano, the Pope's legate, the affairs of this Mahometan prince appeared deſperate. But great diſſenſions aroſe amonſt the cruſaders. A large body of them therefore returned to Europe:

and a diſpute taking place between the cardinal, and the king of Jeruſalem, as to who ſhould command, nothing effectual could be done, till the Pope was conſulted. His determination was in favor of the cardinal, who very ſoon led his forces into ſuch a ſituation that the ſultan of Egypt could have utterly deſtroyed them. But inſtead of doing ſo, he ſpared them, on the terms that they ſhould give up all pretenſions to Egypt, and return to Phœnicia; their leaders at the ſame time ſwearing not to renew hoſtilities for eight years. This happened about the year 1220.

It is neceſſary to recur frequently to other parts of Aſia, to keep up your idea of the general view I mean to impreſs. I ſhall elſewhere give you an account of Jenghiz-Khan, and his empire; but it is neceſſary in this place to inform you, that Naſer, the caliph of Bagdad, had called him to his aid againſt the competitor of the houſe of Ali, as before mentioned, and who was ſupported by Mohammed. The conſequence was, the total overthrow of that em-

peror of Khoroaſm: and this took place much about the ſame time as the treaty with the Chriſtians in Egypt.

Frederic II. emperor of Germany, who had been excommunicated by the Pope, now made his peace by going at the head of a ſmall force to the Holy Land. Inſtead of fighting, he however negociated, and a truce was concluded with Meledin for ten years. By it, Jeruſalem, Nazareth, and ſome other places were to be delivered up to the Chriſtians; which being accordingly done, Frederic returned to Europe. But it was not long till hoſtilities recommenced, and John de Brienne falling into the hands of the infidels, was put to a death of torture. This was done at the ſolicitation of the people of Grand Cairo, where he had been ſent priſoner: and who conſidered him as peculiarly inimical to the Egyptians.

Though the cruſaders were from time to time reinforced from Europe, their conſtant loſſes from their wars with the Infidels and their own diſſenſions, had ſo weakened them, that Jeruſalem was

taken by a body of men called Koraſmins, who put all its inhabitants, of every deſcription, to the ſword. Theſe barbarians were Parthians, who had fled from the conquering arms of the deſcendants of Jenghiz-Khan. The Chriſtians, who ſtill held Tyre, Sidon, Tripoli, Ptolemais, and ſome other places on the ſea coaſts, now united in applying to Europe for ſuccour. They at the ſame time, for the preſent, dropped their own animoſities: but they were unable to make any effectual effort, and their affairs were in a very deſperate ſituation, when St. Lewis king of France arrived with a conſiderable armament. He was accompanied by almoſt every knight in his kingdom, 3000 of whom were knights banneret, the then moſt diſtinguiſhed order. Having touched at Cyprus, they were alſo joined by its king, and having landed in Egypt, Damietta was abandoned to them. St. Lewis now found himſelf at the head of 60,000 men. But in a very ſhort time, by debauchery, the climate and the ſword, the greater part of them periſhed. And at length

Robert the brother of the king was ſlain, whilſt the latter, with two other brothers, and all his principal nobility were taken priſoners. In this ſituation Lewis immediately agreed to the terms that were offered. Theſe were, that Damietta ſhould be delivered up by the Chriſtian garriſon. That all the cruſaders in Egypt ſhould then be ſent to Paleſtine. That 1000 pieces of gold ſhould be paid as a ranſome for the king and the other priſoners. And that they ſhould not again attack Egypt.

The laſt cruſade, for I do not reckon St. Lewis's expedition to Tunis as one of them, was in the year 1271, under Edward, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Henry III. king of England. He brought a conſiderable force, and diſplayed great valor; but finding his efforts muſt be ineffectual, he wiſely abandoned the enterpriſe. Thoſe cruſaders who had fortified themſelves on the ſea coaſts, retained their poſſeſſions for ſome time longer. But every day was weakening them, and before the end of the 13th century, the Chriſtians were entirely expelled from the Holy Land.

The government of Egypt underwent a very extraordinary change not long after the defeat of St. Lewis. The Soldans or Sultans, had latterly a body of troops called Mamalucs. Theſe were compoſed of ſlaves, brought very young from the countries bordering on the Caſpian Sea, and who were trained up to arms. They were far more warlike than the native Egyptians, and very ſoon became truly formidable. At firſt this was very deſirable to the Sultans; but the Mamalucs now aboliſhed that dignity, and uſurped the government, under their own leaders. And conſtantly recruiting their forces with ſlaves from their own countries, they, with very few interruptions, continued in poſſeſſion of Egypt, Syria and Paleſtine, till after my preſent æra.

Much about the ſame period that the Mamaluc government was eſtabliſhed in Egypt, Bagdad was taken by Hulacu, one of the deſcendants of Jenghiz-Khan, who totally aboliſhed the office of caliph. This prince likewiſe put an end to the abominable nation of aſſaſſins, extirpating the then Old Man of the Mountain, and all his ſub-

jects. Princes of the houſe of Jenghiz-Khan were now in poſſeſſion of nearly all the countries of Aſia, except Aſia-Minor, Paleſtine, Arabia and Syria. And ſo they continued, till they in their turn, were ſubdued by Tamerlane, who was alſo of Tartar origin.

The Seljukian dynaſty of the Turks, in all theſe changes kept its ground in Aſia-Minor; and in the beginning of the 14th century Ottoman, their prince or emperor gave name to that dynaſty, which afterwards poſſeſſed, and has ſince retained, the throne of Conſtantinople. Whilſt religious diſputation was engaging the attention of the Greek court, this warlike prince eſtabliſhed the ſeat of his empire at Pruſa in Bythynia, ſoon after which his forces overran Thrace. Orcan, his ſon and ſucceſſor, made a ſtill more ſerious attack on the Greeks, and their emperor John Cantacuzenes, was glad to purchaſe peace, and to beſtow on him a daughter in marriage. Not long after this the territories of the Ottoman princes were increaſed, by the addition of a

conſiderable part of Lydia, which had belonged to another prince of the Seljukian race.

Amurath I. who ſucceeded his father Orcan, not only kept his own in Aſia, but made good a footing in Europe, eſtabliſhing himſelf at Adrianople. And John Paleologus, the then Greek emperor, thought proper to ſtop the further progreſs of his arms, by concluding a treaty in 1370, by which John became his tributary. The empire of the Turks continued to increaſe till the year 1389, when Amurath defeated the prince of Servia, who had under his command an army compoſed of Wallachians, Hungarians, Dalmatians and Triballians: but in walking over the field of battle, the emperor loſt his life, by the hands of a dying Chriſtian ſoldier. It was this prince that originated the janizaries. They were formed out of the fineſt youths he had made priſoners, and they very ſoon became eminent for their diſcipline and valor. The number fixed on was 40,000, and being always kept complete, they became extremely formidable.

Bajazet, the ſon of Amurath, was engaged in a war with Sigiſmond king of Hungary, who was joined by Philip the Good duke of Burgundy, and by the flower of the French nobility, headed by John Without-fear, count of Nevers. But Bajazet gave them a dreadful overthrow at Nicopolis on the Danube, and put all the priſoners he took to death, the French having on a former occaſion ſet the bloody example. This Turkiſh emperor was alſo engaged in war with Manuel Paleologus, who was then on the throne of Conſtantinople. But the latter having now a very ſmall territory, was glad to purchaſe peace on the following terms. He was to pay annually 600 pieces of gold: he was alſo to permit a moſque to be erected in Conſtantinople: and he was to allow a cadi to reſide there, to diſtribute juſtice amongſt the Mahometan inhabitants. But it was not very long before the war was renewed, and the city beſieged. It was however ſaved for the preſent by the approach of Tamerlane, of whom I ſhall ſpeak elſewhere. A bloody battle followed in 1402, between the

Turks and Tartars, in which 340,000 men are ſaid to have fallen. Amongſt theſe was a ſon of the Turkiſh emperor's, and the latter, with another ſon, were made priſoners. Tamerlane, however, did not follow up this victory, and in a very ſhort time he gave up all his conqueſts in Aſia-Minor.

Bajazet did not long ſurvive his captivity, and his eldeſt ſon Mahomet I. had ſeveral wars with his brothers. Amurath II. the ſon of Mahomet was, however, able to unite under his authority what Bajazet had poſſeſſed. His dominions then conſiſted of all Aſia-Minor, and the greater part of Greece: and his arms penetrated into Dalmatia, Thrace, and Hungary. But John Hunniades who commanded the Hungarians, was ſo far ſucceſsful againſt him, as to prevent his taking Belgrade: and Ladiſlaus, king of Hungary and Poland, ſoon after concluded a truce with him for ten years, each ſwearing to obſerve it. Amurath then yielded the ſceptre to his ſon Mahomet II. and reſolved to end his days in retirement. The Pope's legate, cardinal Ceſarini, having however prevailed on Ladiſlaus to recommence

hoſtilities, firſt abſolving him from his oath, Amurath returned to the field. A battle followed, and the Turks at firſt ſeemed to have the worſt of it. Amurath, it is ſaid, now publicly and ſolemnly implored God to puniſh the perjured. Be that as it may, victory at length declared for him, and Ladiſlaus and the cardinal were amongſt the ſlain. Amurath once more ſought the happineſs of a private life, but freſh wars of no great conſequence, again obliged him to abandon it, his ſon being young and inexperienced.

On the death of Amurath, Mahomet in a very ſhort time laid ſiege to Conſtantinople, which had been before ſtripped of all its dependencies. Added to this, its inhabitants were torn to pieces by their own religious diſſenſions. Thus, unable to withſtand the aſſailants, that city was taken and a total end was thereby put to the Greek, or Eaſtern Roman empire.

SECOND LETTER.

IN 1085 Alexius Comnenus was on the throne of Conſtantinople, and had to contend with both the Scythians and Turks. He had alſo a quarrel of no conſequence with Bohemond, a leader of the cruſaders, who had become prince of Antioch, but who had refuſed to fulfil his engagement of doing homage for it. Anna Comnena, his daughter, and the beſt hiſtorian of theſe times, gives her father a very high character: but the cruſaders were of a different opinion, though I think without reaſon.

John, the ſon of Alexius, after a conteſt with his ſiſter Anna and her huſband, which he generouſly forgave, ſucceeded his father. He was engaged in different wars with the Turks, Scythians, Servii, and Hunns, which had no important conſequences. His death was occaſioned by an accidental wound of a poiſoned arrow which he had carried with him in a hunting party; and

his conduct had been ſuch, that his loſs was much lamented by his ſubjects.

Manuel, though, not the eldeſt ſon of John, was named, and admitted to the ſucceſſion; and you have ſeen that he and the cruſaders were not cordial with each other. This afforded a pretence to Roger king of Sicily to attack his dominions, but Michael Paleologus, Manuel's general ſucceſsfully oppoſed him, and the Pope at length made peace between them. Manuel had alſo ſome wars with the Sultan of Iconium. The end of his reign was however free from foreign diſputes: but at home he encouraged religious diſputation; and having been a very debauched man, he at length ſought to atone for it, by embracing a monaſtic life.

His ſon, Alexius Comnenus II. was then only twelve years old. The public affairs were therefore carried on by his mother, but ſhe and her miniſter miſconducting themſelves, Andronicus the young king's couſin german revolted. The army and fleet being on his ſide, he was made protector—then colleague with Alexius—and af-

terwards by the murder of the latter, he became ſole emperor. This was followed, by his putting to death, all thoſe whom he dreaded, that he could get into his power. Iſaac Comnenus, a near relation, however eſcaped to Cyprus, where he was received as ſovereign; and Alexius, the brother of the late emperor Manuel, took ſhelter in Sicily. There he found a protector in William the then king of that iſland; who ſent an army into Greece and Macedon to ſupport his claims. Its ſucceſs produced a revolution at Conſtantinople, though not in favor of either Alexius or Iſaac Comnenus. The perſon now raiſed to the throne was Iſaac Angelus, a man of high birth, but of a different family: and Andronicus was put to a death of the moſt excruciating torture.

The new emperor was ſucceſsful in driving the Sicilians out of his territories. He did not, however ſucceed againſt Cyprus, where Iſaac Comnenus had ſtrengthened himſelf, by calling Margarites, a celebrated pirate to his aid. The Scythians and Mœſians at this time gained ſome advantages over the Greeks: on which Branas, an

able general, was ſent againſt them. But he ſoon after revolted, and marched to Conſtantinople. The emperor, inſtead of heading his forces, at firſt placed an image of the Virgin on the walls of the city for his protection. But Conrade, the ſon of the marquis of Montferrat, who was accidentally there, rouſed him to meet the enemy: and in an engagement that followed Branas was defeated, and fell in battle by the hand of Conrade. After this, Iſaac Angelus oppoſed the cruſaders under Frederic Barbaroſſa, the conſequences of which you have elſewhere ſeen. He had then to encounter a perſon who claimed the empire, as ſon of the emperor Manuel. He was, however, an impoſtor, and the attempt ended in loſing his life. The emperor had now become extremely unpopular, which being increaſed by his ill ſucceſs againſt the Scythians, his brother Alexius depoſed him: after which he put out his eyes, and throwing him into priſon, uſurped the throne.

When Alexius conceived himſelf eſtabliſhed he releaſed his brother Iſaac, and alſo a ſon of that

unfortunate prince, named Alexius, then only twelve years old. Philip, the then emperor of Germany, having married a daughter of Iſaac's, the latter now ſent his ſon to the court of the former for protection. The conſequence was, that Philip exerted himſelf in favor of ſuch near connections, and prevailed on a body of French and Venetian cruſaders, in conſideration of receiving a ſtipulated ſum of money, and certain promiſes in caſe of ſucceſs, to accompliſh another revolution at Conſtantinople. This happened in 1203, and Iſaac and his ſon were then made joint emperors. The former died ſoon after, and Alexius, now ſole emperor, was almoſt immediately murdered by his relation, John Ducas, ſurnamed Murtzulphus.

The cruſaders who had but lately paſſed into Aſia-Minor, on hearing of theſe events, returned to Europe, and having obliged Ducas to fly, they ſeated Baldwin, earl of Flanders, who was their principal leader, on the throne of Conſtantinople. They, however, ſtripped it of all its dominions, except Thrace and Mœſia. The few

cities on the coaſt of Aſia-Minor, which had not been conquered by the Turks, as alſo Peloponneſus, and the iſland of Candia, was the ſhare allotted to the Venetians. Theſſaly was declared a diſtinct kingdom, and beſtowed on Boniface, marquis of Montferrat. And ſome other leaders got principalities erected for them in Greece. Theſe arrangements were highly approved of by the Pope, as his authority was now fully acknowledged, through what remained of the Greek empire.

Two new Greek empires were the conſequence of this revolution. That of Nice, under Theodorus Laſcaris, who had married a daughter of the tyrant Alexius Angelus: and the other Trebizond, or Trapezond, founded by David and Alexius Comneni, the grandſons of the infamous Andronicus. Adrianople, which had not been conquered by the cruſaders, declared for Laſcaris; and John, king of Bulgaria, coming to their aid, Baldwin was defeated, and falling into the hands of the enemy, they put him to a cruel death. He was ſucceeded by his brother Henry, whoſe arms proving ſucceſsful, Laſcaris was oblig-

ed to acknowledge him. He alſo drove the Bulgarians back to their own country; but he was not able to prevent Michael Angelus, who was of the imperial family, eſtabliſhing himſelf in Epirus and Ætolia.

On the death of the emperor Henry, his brother-in-law, Peter de Courtenay, count of Auxerre, was crowned at Rome by the Pope. He then ſet out for Conſtantinople with a body of forces, which he firſt led againſt Theodorus who had ſucceeded his brother Michael Angelus in Epirus and Ætolia. After ſome hoſtilities a treaty enſued, by which Peter was to have a free paſſage. But Theodorus afterwards treacherouſly fell on him; cut moſt of his troops to pieces, and taking himſelf priſoner, put him to death. The eldeſt ſon of Peter, then declined the ſucceſſion; on which Robert, a younger ſon, made good his claim to the vacant throne. On the death of the latter, his ſon and ſucceſſor, Baldwin II. being only eight years old, the adminiſtration fell to John de Brienne, who had been king of Jeruſalem. He had to oppoſe John Azen,

king of Bulgaria, and alſo John Ducas, who had ſucceeded his father Theodore Laſcaris at Nice. They at length beſieged Conſtantinople; and John de Brienne dying, would have taken it, but for a quarrel amongſt themſelves. Baldwin, who had now attained to manhood, found it neceſſary to court the alliance of the Comneni of Trebizond, which he obtained. He alſo procured a conſiderable ſum of money from the Venetians. The ſecurity they took for the repayment ſtrongly marks theſe times. He pledged to them, what they and he believed to be, the crown of thorns, which had been placed on the head of the Meſſiah—the linen and napkins found in his tomb—the coat he had worn—and ſome pieces of the croſs. And theſe were afterwards redeemed by St. Lewis, king of France, and placed in the holy chapel of Paris.

Theodore Laſcaris, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Ducas at Nice, having renewed an alliance that had been made with the Sultan of Iconium, paſſed into Europe in defence of ſome territories which he ſtill held in Thrace and Macedon.

They had been attacked by the Bulgarians and the deſpot of Epirus; but Theodore's forces were ſo completely victorious, that they were glad to make peace on his own terms. At the death of Theodore, his ſon and ſucceſſor John, being only nine years old, Arſenius, the patriarch at Nice, and George Muzalo who had raiſed himſelf by his own merit, were appointed regents. This was highly offenſive to Michael Paleologus, a man of high family and great conſequence: he therefore procured the murder of Muzalo, and at the ſame time prevailed on the patriarch to crown him, on his promiſing to reſign, ſo ſoon as the minor ſhould attain to manhood. The new emperor now attacked the cruſaders who had ſettled in the Greek empire, in every quarter. He himſelf went into Thrace. His brother Conſtantine made himſelf maſter of Peloponneſus. And his general Alexius Strategopulus ſurpriſing and taking Conſtantinople, the Latins were totally expelled. This happened in 1261, and 59 years after the elevation of Baldwin, earl of Flanders.

Inſtead of yielding the ſceptre to John, who was now a man, Paleologus deprived him of ſight. Juſtly irritated at this perfidy, the patriarch excommunicated Paleologus, and all concerned in it. This was alſo followed by the king of Bulgaria, and the then deſpot of Epirus, who were married to two of John's ſiſters, declaring war againſt the uſurper. The Venetians at the ſame time attacked the iſlands of the Archipelago which had been wreſted from them. And Charles king of Sicily, ſon-in-law to Baldwin II. with ſome other princes of the weſt, prepared to take arms. In this critical ſituation, Paleologus, courted the interference of the Pope, by acknowledging his ſupremacy over the Greek empire; and his Holineſs in return, diverted the king of Sicily, and ſome other weſtern princes, from their intended hoſtilities. This enabled him to make head againſt his other enemies; but he was afterwards excommunicated by Pope Martin for his ſhare in the Sicilian veſpers, which I ſhall elſewhere ſpeak of, and which he did not long ſurvive.

Andronicus the ſon and ſucceſſor of the late emperor, was a warm advocate for the independence of the Greek church. He therefore annulled all his predeceſſor's acts in favor of the See of Rome; and ſtill more ſtrongly to mark his diſapprobation, he would not allow his father's remains to receive a Chriſtian burial. This produced great internal diſſenſions, and the Turks taking advantage of them, took Callipolis, a place of conſiderable conſequence in Europe. They were however afterwards drove from it by Phile Paleologus a near relation of Andronicus. The emperor now experienced ſome ſevere domeſtic misfortunes. A grandſon of his own name, kept a favorite miſtreſs, and becoming jealous of her, he employed aſſaſſins to kill whoever ſhould viſit her. By their hands, his elder brother, who was merely going to enquire where he was, periſhed. This had ſuch an effect on Michael their father, and who had been aſſociated in the empire, that he died of grief. The emperor was then compelled to admit his infamous grandſon to be

the partner of his throne; which produced a civil war, that ended in Andronicus the elder's taking ſhelter in a monaſtery. Andronicus III. had now to repulſe the attacks of the Scythians, Bulgarians, and Turks: and he was able to prevent their obtaining any material ſucceſs.

This emperor was ſucceeded by his ſon John, who being only nine years old, was put under the care of John Contacuzenus. This was highly diſagreeable to the young prince's mother, who in conjunction with the patriarch, in a ſhort time had Contacuzenus declared a public enemy. Thus drove to it, he aſſumed the purple, and after ſome ſtruggles he eſtabliſhed himſelf as the young prince's colleague. The latter however had no ſooner attained to manhood than he determined to poſſeſs himſelf of the ſole power. This produced a conteſt, in which the former was joined by Orcan the Turkiſh ſultan, to whom he had given a daughter in marriage. On the other hand John, the ſon of Andronicus, was ſupported by Crales king of Servia, and Alexander king of Bulgaria. In

this conteſt Cantacuzenus proved ſucceſsful, but almoſt in the ſame moment abdicated, and embraced a monaſtic life. His ſon Matthew however took his place, againſt his father's competitor. But he alſo gave up his claim on receiving a pardon; and John the ſon of Andronicus, thereupon poſſeſſed the ſole power.

It was not till the year 1357 that the Turks obtained a permanent footing in Europe. At that period Amurath I. was able to make Adrianople the capital of his conqueſts in Greece: from which the Turks were never afterwards expelled. Beſides this misfortune, the emperor had a domeſtic one of a very dreadful nature. His eldeſt ſon Andronicus, with the aid of the Genoeſe, who were ſettled at Conſtantinople, and who had all the commerce of that city, was able to depoſe and impriſon his father. He however, on certain ſtipulations afterwards reſtored him, in order to make head againſt Bajazet the Turk, who was their common enemy.

Bajazet's ſucceſs ſurpaſſed all his predeceſſors. Theſſaly, Macedon, Phocis, Peloponneſus,

Mœſia and Bulgaria fell to his arms. He alſo obliged John to pay him tribute for the little that was leſt him, and Manuel the ſon of John was compelled to ſerve in his armies. Manuel on the death of his father in 1392 however repaired to Conſtantinople without leave from Bajazet. And in return the Turkiſh monarch ravaged his territories, and laid ſiege to his capital.

In this deplorable ſtate Manuel implored the aid of the weſtern princes: and Sigiſmund king of Hungary, and John count of Nevers, at length ſet out to his relief at the head of 130,000 men. But it ended in their total overthrow, Nevers being taken priſoner, and Sigiſmund eſcaping with difficulty. Bajazet now made an agreement with John the nephew of Manuel, who was the ſon of Andronicus, and the elder branch of the royal family, his father being dead. The terms were, that he ſhould ſurrender Conſtantinople and be contented with Peloponneſus. This was kept ſecret, till Manuel was prevailed on, to reſign in

favor of John. The latter then endeavoured to obtain the compliance of the citizens to the terms he had ſecretly agreed to. But not being able to prevail, the city was inveſted more cloſely than ever: and muſt have fallen but for the interference of Tamerlane, which I have elſewhere related. The ſiege being thus raiſed, a new revolution took place; which again gave the ſceptre to Manuel, and John was ſent into baniſhment.

In 1424 Manuel was ſucceeded by his ſon John. He was ſeverely preſſed by Amurath II. who would have put an end to the Greek empire, but for the valor of Scanderbeg who is alſo known by the name of John de Caſtriot, and who was the then deſpot of Epirus. This ſingular man was of the royal family, that you have ſeen eſtabliſhing itſelf in Epirus, and was the only ſurvivor of five brothers. Being a child when his country was ſubdued by the Turks, he had been educated in the court of Amurath. There he diſplayed ſuch warlike talents as to engage the attention of the ſultan and janizaries

who gave him the name of Scanderbeg. He was at length intruſted to command an army againſt the prince of Servia. He however turned his views to the recovery of his native country, and getting a ſecretary belonging to Amurath into his power, who he knew had the ſultan's ſeal, he put him and his attendants to death. He then affixed it to a forged order to the governor of Croia the capital of Epirus, to deliver that place into his hands. This was immediately complied with, and being aided by a number of his countrymen, with whom he had held a ſecret correſpondence, all the Turks in that garriſon were maſſacred. By theſe means which it is impoſſible to juſtify, he regained all that had been his father's, and during his life he not only repelled every attack made to wreſt it from him; but was a formidable obſtacle to their extending their conqueſts.

Though Scanderbeg had for the moment ſaved the Greek empire, he ſaw that nothing but a powerful aid from the weſtern princes could eventually defend it. He therefore pointed out

to the emperor, that he ſhould gain the aſſiſtance of the Pope. To obtain this, John prevailed on the patriarch of Conſtantinople and his clergy to ſign the Roman ritual. His Holineſs was highly gratified at this re-union of the two churches. But it did not procure any effectual ſupport to John, who dying in 1448 was ſucceeded by his brother Conſtantine Paleologus: whoſe proſpects were as gloomy as they turned out to be fatal.

In 1450 Amurath II. was ſucceeded by Mohammed II. ſurnamed the Great, who inſtantly reſolved on the ſiege of Conſtantinople. The Greek emperor defended it with great courage and intrepidity, and when at length it fell by ſtorm, on the 29th of May 1453; his life and the Greek empire expired together.

THIRD LETTER.

THE affairs of the eaſtern part of Aſia, now begin to demand our attention. The Scythians at this time called Tartars, continued to poſſeſs that immenſe tract of country, that lay between India, Ruſſia, China, and the frontiers of the Saracen empire. Their manners were in general the ſame as formerly, as they ſtill ſupported themſelves by hunting, lived in tents, and had no fixed habitations. They were however divided into numerous tribes or nations, at the head of each of which was a prince or khan. But of all theſe tribes the Monguls or Moguls had become the moſt powerful, owing to their diſcovery of iron.

Towards the end of the 12th century Calkhan or Gaſſer khan, was king of the Moguls. Several other tribes acknowledged a ſort of ſubordination to him. This was encreaſed and rendered permanent by Piſouca, the ſon and ſuc-

ceſſor of Gaſſer-khan. And Temugin at his ſucceſſion, on the death of his father Piſouca, found himſelf extremely formidable. He had however a rival in another khan, whom the Chriſtians called Preſter John, from ſome monks having alledged they had converted him to chriſtianity. This latter prince was at the head of a Tartar tribe ſettled near China, and much more civilized than the Tartars in general, having towns and fixed habitations. Temugin however proved victorious in a conteſt with Preſter John, and his authority being afterwards generally acknowledged by the Tartars at large, he took the title of Jenghiz-khan, or king of kings.

This monarch having enacted ſuch laws, as ſuited the people he had to govern, turned his thoughts to the conqueſt of China, then called Cathai. He therefore paſſed its great wall, and made himſelf maſter of the northern part with little difficulty; for after taking its chief city, ſince called Pekin, the reſt of the people in that quarter ſcarcely made any reſiſtance. And as

he did not attempt to change either their manners or laws, they chearfully ſubmitted to his government. He then ſet out to ſuccour Naſſer the caliph of Bagdad, who had applied to him for aid againſt Mohammed the ſultan of Khoarazman. The latter was at the head of 400,000 men, but the former had 700,000, commanded by his four ſons, who ſerved under him. Jenghiz gained a deciſive victory, and the extenſive dominions of the ſultan ſubmitted to the conqueror. One body of his forces then entered India, and ſubdued Indoſttan, whilſt another detachment made itſelf maſters of the provinces to the ſouth and weſt of the Caſpian Sea. Thus in about eighteen years; half of China—half of India—the greateſt part of Perſia—the frontiers of Ruſſia, and all the countries within theſe boundaries, acknowledged the juriſdiction of Jenghiz, extending from eaſt to weſt not leſs than 1800 leagues, and from north to ſouth 1000. Of this vaſt empire he made Toncat the capital, a city to the north eaſt of the river Taxartes, and which was nearly central.

At Toncat, Jenghiz celebrated a ſort of feſtival in which he exhibited his immenſe riches. He was mounted on a moſt magnificient car, highly ornamented with rich ſtuffs, gold and precious ſtones. His chief vaſſals alſo appeared in a ſimilar manner, though with leſs magnificence. This exhibition he did not however long ſurvive, and according to ancient cuſtom, numbers of his people were ſacrificed at his tomb.

Before his death, Jenghiz portioned out his empire to his ſons, without regard to ſeniority. To Octai his third ſon he left the rank of Great-khan, and beſides Tartary, he alſo gave him what was conquered of China. Touchi got Turqueſtan, Bactriana, the kingdom of Aſtracan, and the country of the Uſbecks. Tuti or Tuli had Perſia. And Zagati was poſſeſſed of Tranſoxana, Candahor, the north of India, Cachemir, and Tibet.

Octai conquered a good deal more of China, and his ſon Coblican added the remainder. That crown continued in the deſcendants of Jenghiz to the year 1357, when, by very bad conduct

in the then reigning emperor, the ninth in ſucceſſion from Jenghiz, another revolution took place: and a new Chineſe dynaſty was eſtabliſhed. Tuti, who had got the country in which the caliphat of Bagdad was ſituated, was ſucceeded by his ſon Houlacan, who totally overturned that power, though his grandfather had aſſumed the office of its protector. Houlacan alſo made himſelf maſter of a conſiderable part of Aſia Minor, and his poſterity continued poſſeſſed of Perſia till the time of Tamerlane: as did the poſterity of Touchi and Zagati, of their reſpective dominions.

All the Tartars were more or leſs idolatrous, and equally rejected the Chriſtian, the Jewiſh and Mahometan religions. Indeed they carried idolatry further than any other nation, as they worſhipped a living idol called the Dei Lama, who ſtiled himſelf the vicegerent of the god Fo. His reſidence was in Tibet, where he ſat on a throne to which even the Tartar princes kneeled, and his decrees in religious affairs were un-

alterable. The Dei Lama was ſuppoſed to be immortal, and as his prieſts took care that he ſhould never be diſtinctly ſeen it was not difficult to keep up the cheat, which is ſaid to continue even to this day.

Timur or Tamerlane derived his blood in the female line from Jenghiz-khan, and was born in 1357, in Sogdiana. He was at firſt only maſter of a ſmall principality in Bukaria, but by his extraordinary talents, he ſoon diſtinguiſhed himſelf; and the reſt of the princes of Bukaria acknowledging him as their chief, he found himſelf at the head of a powerful army.

The exact progreſs of his victories is not eaſily aſcertained, but we find him firſt conquering Khoraſan, Perſia, Kandahor, Bagdad, Tranſoxana and India. He then attacked Syria, and made himſelf maſter of Damaſcus; and, as you have ſeen, was ſucceſsful againſt Bajazet, the Turkiſh emperor. In the battle that decided that conteſt, cannon, which had been lately invented, was uſed on both ſides, and created

great ſlaughter. The conduct of Tamerlane, who proved victorious, is differently related. By ſome he is ſaid to have carried Bajazet about in an iron cage, till he died; whilſt by others he is reported to have acted towards him with humanity. All that is certain is, that the Turkiſh emperor died in captivity.

Tamerlane, after the conqueſt over Bajazet, abandoned Aſia-Minor, and expelled, for a ſhort time, the Mamalucs from Syria. He then returned to Samarcand, which he had made his capital, where he received ambaſſadors from all quarters, congratulating him on the ſucceſs of his arms. Poſſeſſed of an immenſe empire, the expence and grandeur of his court was ſuitable; but there was a total want of all real elegance and taſte. He died in 1405 or 6, and whatever might have been his faults, he was certainly a man of great talents and courage: and with him, his empire may be ſaid to have originated and expired.

Mehemed, the grandſon and ſucceſſor of Tamerlane, ſoon found a formidable competitor in

another grandſon named Ulug-Beg; and it ended in the death of Mehemed, and the ſucceſſion of the latter. Ulug-Beg then inſtituted an academy of ſciences at Samarcand, where the meaſurement of the earth was firſt attempted; and ſome aſtronomical tables were made, that ſtill bear his name. But different civil wars followed, and different princes aroſe, within the bounds that had been united under Tamerlane. And all I think neceſſary to add in this place is, that a deſcendant of his continued on the throne of Perſia at the concluſion of this æra.

I ſhall not ſay much as to China, till I treat of it in another period of hiſtory. Beyond all doubt it was very early peopled; and the immenſe wall, which certainly exiſted when Jenghiz-khan invaded it, proclaims a high degree of civilization, when compared with its neighbours. Another undoubted proof of their ſuperiority in knowledge is, that the conquerors adopted their laws and manners in preference to their own.

In the courſe of this letter, I have touched on all the countries that compoſed the Saracen empire, except what belonged to Spain, Morocco, and the ſtates of Barbary. As to the firſt, it will fall in with the view I ſhall give you of Europe. And as to the others, there is nothing material, but that they remained diſtinct territories, under their former tyrannic ſyſtems of government.

FOURTH LETTER.

DENMARK, Norway and Sweden, in this æra begin to claim our attention. Each had its ſeparate kings, and various deſtructive wars from time to time took place between them. At length, in the year 1391, a woman had the honour of uniting them under her juriſdiction. This was Margaret queen of Denmark, ſtiled the Semiramis of the North, and forty deputies from each nation, ſettled the plan of confederation at a place called Calmar, in Scandinavia. By it each kingdom was to retain its cuſtoms and laws—keep up its reſpective military force —and defray its own expences. It was alſo provided, that every office in each reſpective ſtate muſt be filled by natives. The monarch was to be choſen ſucceſſively by each nation, but when elected, to continue for life, and to reſide alternately in each of the three kingdoms.

Margaret having thus united theſe contending people, was engaged in a diſpute with the Teutonic knights about Gothland, which, however, ſhe was able to ſettle amicably with the emperor. By ſecuring the affections of the clergy, whoſe influence ſhe well knew, ſhe preſerved internal tranquility: and in almoſt every inſtance ſhe diſplayed great talents for governing. But her private character was ſullied by a ſtrong ſuſpicion of too cloſe a connection with the abbot of Soora her prime miniſter: and with another Swede who was remarkable for his beauty.

Eric X. of Denmark ſucceeded Margaret. He was depoſed in 1438, for not obſerving the articles of Calmar, and for other miſconduct: and Chriſtopher III. the ſon of his ſiſter Sophia by the duke of Bavaria, was elected in his ſtead. This prince reigned to the year 1448, and at his death the Calmar union ceaſed. Chriſtopher having left no iſſue, the Danes elected Chriſtian I. to ſucceed him in their throne: and the Swedes and Norwe-

gians choſe Charles Canutſon, who was ſprung from the ancient kings of the former. Chriſtian had nothing particular in his reign; but Canutſon was involved in a civil war. It was occaſioned by the chief men amongſt the laity demanding an enquiry into the conduct and uſurpations of the clerical order. This was violently oppoſed by their archbiſhop Upſal, and the reſt of the clergy. The king on the other hand ſupported the laity; and a formidable conteſt took place, which laſted longer than my preſent æra.

Ruſſia ſtill continued barbarous under its dukes or czars, and I ſhall therefore proceed to Ireland. In the beginning of the twelfth century, that country had a number of petty princes, but all were ſubordinate, in ſome degree, to one or other of five kings, viz. thoſe of Munſter, Leinſter, Meath, Ulſter and Connaught, and one of theſe latter was always elected monarch of Ireland. They were however conſtantly engaged in civil wars, and ignorance and barbarity every where prevailed.

Such was its unhappy ſituation, when Henry II. of England, in the year 1156, reſolved to ſubdue it. Preparatory to it, he ſollicited and obtained a bull from Pope Adrian III. beſtowing Ireland to him and his ſucceſſors, on condition however that it ſhould acknowledge the ſee of Rome, and pay Peter's pence to the papal treaſury.

Not very long after this grant, an inteſtine quarrel in Ireland paved the way for the reception of the Engliſh. Dermot Mac-Morrogh, king of Leinſter, having become enamoured of the wife of Ororic, one of the Iriſh kings, ſurpriſed and carried her off. On this Ororic obtained the aid of Roderic O'Connor, king of Connaught, the then monarch of Ireland; and their forces proving victorious, Dermot fled to England. From thence he proceeded to Guienne, where Henry II. then was, and from whom he obtained letters patent, permitting ſuch of his Britiſh ſubjects as choſe it, to enter into the ſervice of Dermot. In conſequence of this, Richard, ſurnamed Strongbow, earl of Strigul, engaged to aſſiſt

him, on condition that he ſhould obtain the hand of Eva, the daughter of Dermot, and with her, the right of ſucceſſion to the crown of Leinſter. Other Engliſh adventurers were engaged by Dermot, on terms ſettled between them, and the Iriſh king returned, taking ſhelter in the monaſtery of Fernes, which he had founded, till his Engliſh allies ſhould arrive.

Robert Fitzſtephens was the firſt who appeared, bringing with him 130 knights, and 300 archers. Such was the ſuperiority in arms and diſcipline of the Engliſh, that this handful of men beat the Iriſh in every engagement: and when reinforced by Maurice de Prendergaſt, who came over ſoon after with 10 knights and 60 archers, Wexford, one of the cities yet held by the Danes, was beſieged and taken. Maurice Fitzgerald next arrived, with 10 knights, 30 eſquires, and 100 archers, and Dermot king of Leinſter then openly joined, with ſuch friends as he could muſter. To oppoſe their progreſs, Roderic, the monarch of Ire-

land, appeared at the head of a far more numerous army; but the ſuperiority of the newcomers in the art of war, obtained the victory in a battle that enſued.

Strongbow now ſent a detachment of 10 knights, and 70 archers, under the command of one Raymond; and ſpeedily followed, at the head of 200 horſe, and 100 archers. The Engliſh, thus reinforced, became irreſiſtible, and Dublin was ſoon after taken by aſſault. Dermot did not long ſurvive this good fortune, and Strongbow, as his ſon-in-law, laid claim to the crown of Leinſter: and being every where ſucceſsful, he was likely to obtain not only it, but the monarchy of Ireland. Henry II. when informed of this, was by no means ſatisfied with the views of the earl. He therefore ordered him, and all the Britiſh ſubjects to return to England. He was however prevailed on to ſuſpend his commands, and repairing to Ireland in perſon, he received homage from all the Iriſh princes whoſe territories had not been conquered. He then granted what

had been ſubdued to the Engliſh leaders according to their conſequence: and inſtead of allowing Strongbow to wear a crown, he intruſted Ireland to his care, with the title of its ſeneſchal.

Innumerable wars followed, between the native Iriſh, and the new ſettlers; and I ſhall only add, that Ireland was miſerable at home, and perfectly uſeleſs to England, during the remainder of that æra to which I am at preſent directing your attention.

FIFTH LETTER.

I SHALL now proceed to Spain and Portugal, beginning with the kingdom of Caſtile. Alphonſo VI. who was ſo ſucceſsful in the year 1085, by means of the Cid, ſtill further increaſed his territories, by marrying a daughter of the Mooriſh king of Seville, with whom he got ſome places as a portion. The Cid and his knights, taking advantage of the diſſenſions which aroſe among the Moors, poſſeſſed themſelves of Valentia, and he governed it till his death in 1096, when it alſo became united to Caſtile.

The affairs of Spain are full of confuſion, and I ſhall therefore touch only on a few remarkable events. In the year 1212, there was a general combination amongſt the Moors of Spain, who, for the moſt part, were at war with each other, to extirpate the Chriſtians. For this purpoſe, they prevailed on Mohammed, the mi-

ramolin of Morocco, to come to their aid, at the head of 100,000 men, and they thereby became extremely formidable. But the Chriſtian kings of Caſtile, Arragon and Navarre heartily uniting, gave them a deciſive overthrow.

The next king of Caſtile that I think worthy of notice was Alphonſo, ſurnamed the Wiſe, or the Aſtronomer. He was engaged in war, both with Arragon and Navarre. In his old age, don Sancho, his ſon by a ſecond wife, had him depoſed, by a factious aſſembly of the ſtates: for at this time, the ſtates of Caſtile had great powers and privileges, and the king was very far from being abſolute. Alphonſo now applied to the miramolin of Morocco, who immediately embraced his cauſe, and arrived at the head of a powerful army. On the two monarchs meeting, the former generouſly gave the latter the place of honor; ſaying, he did ſo, becauſe he was unfortunate. He alſo added, that he had come to avenge the cauſe of kings and of fathers; and by his exertions Alphonſo was reſtored. Alphonſo added to the happi-

neſs of his country by giving them a code of laws, called Las Portidas, and which is the foundation of the preſent laws of Spain. He likewiſe encreaſed the wealth of the ſtate, by obtaining from the Pope a third part of the tithes of Leon and Caſtile. He alſo was a great encourager of the learning of thoſe times, and tables of aſtronomy, drawn up by ſome Arabians, under his directions, ſtill retain his name.

Don Sancho, though unworthy of the crown, was permitted to ſucceed to it on the death of his father, and to tranſmit it to his ſon Ferdinand IV. who, in 1303, diſpoſſeſſed the Moors of Gibraltar. During his reign, the Canary iſlands, which had been lately diſcovered by the Spaniards, were erected into a kingdom by Pope Clement VI. in favor of Lewis de la Cerda, of the Caſtile royal family. He however never took poſſeſſion of them, and they have ever ſince continued an appendage to Caſtile.

In 1348, Don Pedro, ſurnamed the Cruel, ſucceeded Ferdinand; who had left ſeveral illi-

gitimate ſons by a favorite miſtreſs, named Eleanor de Guzman. In the quarrels that enſued between Pedro and them, Eleanor and one of her ſons were put to death. Pedro, in order to enjoy his vicious amours more freely, alſo threw his queen, who was of the royal blood of France into priſon, where ſhe was poiſoned. Henry of Tranſlamare, one of Pedro's baſtard brothers having eſcaped to France, thought this a good opportunity to ſolicit the aid of Charles V. its then king. He at the ſame time propoſed to rid France of a numerous banditti, called Malandrins, that greatly infeſted it, by leading them againſt Caſtile. This was acceded to, and by the aſſiſtance of Bertrand du Gueſclin, a French knight, he was ſoon at the head of a conſiderable force. Du Gueſclin who was in great want of money for his troops, plundered the Pope, who then reſided at Avignon: and entering Caſtile, Henry, who had numerous partizans in that country, was proclaimed its monarch.

Pedro now ſolicited Edward the Black Prince of England, who was alſo prince of Aquitaine, to come to his aid. He did ſo, with an army of

Gaſcons and Engliſh, and a bloody battle enſued, in which the valor and conduct of Edward decided the day. And after the victory he acquired ſtill greater honor, by reſtraining the cruel diſpoſition of Pedro.

Edward having retired with his forces, it was not long till Henry and Du Gueſclin again took the field; being ſupplied both with men and money by the courts of France and Arragon. On the other hand Pedro was aſſiſted by the Moors and Portugueſe, but he was defeated and made priſoner. When brought into Henry's preſence, though unarmed, he ruſhed on the victor, who thereupon put him to death with his poinard: and thus, in the year 1368, was the ſceptre of Caſtile transferred to the line of Tranſlamare.

In 1379 Henry was ſucceeded by his ſon Don Juan, or John, whoſe reign was chiefly memorable for a long war with Portugal. Henry III. who next reigned, was diſtinguiſhed by his many virtues, and on his death in 1406, the crown devolved on Don Juan II. a minor; whoſe reign was turbulent and unhappy, and laſted longer than the period I am now treating of.

Arragon and Navarre were under one king in the beginning of the 12th century, and the count of Barcelona held his territories as a fief of their monarch. Alphonſo, ſurnamed the Warrior, who was poſſeſſed of the ſceptre of theſe united ſtates, about this time took Saragoſſa from the Moors, and made it his capital. At his death he deviſed his territories to the knights hoſpitallers; but they declined taking any ſteps to enforce the claim, and Arragon and Navarre became again ſeparate kingdoms. In the former, Don Raymir, the brother of Alphonſo, though a monk, was elected; and the Pope abſolved him from his vows.

In the beginning of the 13th century, Peter II. was on the throne of Arragon, and not very long before his acceſſion the iſland of Majorca had been taken from the Moors by his predeceſſor, James I. Languedoc, and the country of Foix was alſo held under him by the count of Toulouſe, and Peter was now called on to ſupport his vaſſal, againſt an attack that had a very ſingular origin.

Towards the end of the 12th century, a number of people called Albigenſes and Vaudois, who lived in Piedmont and Languedoc, denied the claims of the Pope; and aſſerted that the holy ſcriptures alone contained the true rule of faith. To cruſh theſe opinions, inquiſitors were introduced, but that not anſwering, a cruſade was preached againſt them, and at the head of the forces thus raiſed, was placed Simon of Montfort. The count of Toulouſe did not tamely ſubmit to this treatment of his ſubjects, and calling in Peter his liege lord, he gave the cruſaders battle. But in it they were defeated, Peter loſing his life, and the count moſt of his territories, one part of which called the Venaiſſan, was given to his Holineſs.

James the ſon of Peter ſucceeded to the vacant throne, and on his death, his brother, Peter III. and ſurnamed the Great, became king of Arragon. After the Sicilian Maſſacre, known by the name of the Sicilian veſpers, Peter ſeized on that iſland. This made it generally believed, that he had been an inſtigator of that bloody buſineſs. The Pope therefore excommunicated

him, and beſtowed his kingdom to Charles Valois, a grandſon of St. Lewis of France. But this idle donation had no important conſequences.

It is unneceſſary to plague you with the names of kings under whom nothing material took place. And therefore I ſhall only ſay, that under James IV. Pope Boniface VIII. added Sardinia and Corſica to his territories, in order to end a diſpute which had ſubſiſted between the Genoeſe and Piſans, as to the poſſeſſion of thoſe iſlands. In the reign of Alonſo V. the kingdom of Naples was alſo annexed to the crown of Arragon, as I ſhall have occaſion to mention in my account of Italy.

Navarre continued under its own kings, but there is nothing worth particulariſing as to it. I ſhall therefore proceed to Portugal, the only remaining part of ancient Spain.

An earl of the houſe of Burgundy, called Henry, and who was ſprung from Hugh Capet, king of France, gave a beginning to the kingdom of Portugal towards the end of the 11th century. He obtained about one third of what it now is, as a portion with a natural daughter

daughter of Alphonſo VI. king of Caſtile and Leon. Alphonſo Henrique, the ſon of Henry, added Liſbon to his territories, by means of a body of cruſaders who put into the Tagus in their way to the Holy Land; ſoon after which he expelled the Moors from every other part of what is now called Portugal, except the province of Algarves. He then obtained the title of king from Pope Alexander III.; and in return paid the holy ſee an annual tribute of two marks of gold.

Towards the end of the 13th century, the Moors were expelled the Province of Algarves, and from that period the kingdom rapidly encreaſed in wealth and power. On the death of Ferdinand the laſt prince of the houſe of Burgundy, a conteſt aroſe between John, king of Caſtile, who was married to Ferdinand's ſiſter, and Don John I. the baſtard brother of the late king. The ſtates of Portugal, however, preferred the latter, and he juſtified their choice. He took Ceuta from the Moors, and kept the ſtates of Barbary in awe. He alſo attended diligently to the navy, and in 1412 he ſent out a few ſhips to make

diſcoveries. They paſſed Cape Non in Africa, the then boundary of European navigation, and proceeded as far as Cape Bajador.

Henry, a younger ſon of king John, had highly diſtinguiſhed himſelf in Africa, againſt the Moors; but ſtill more ſo at home by his amiable manners, and his paſſionate deſire after knowledge. He eſtabliſhed an obſervatory at Sagres where he reſided, and particularly attended to aſtronomy, and the art of navigation. By him the uſe of the loadſtone was firſt introduced into maritime affairs, and very ſkilful pilots were formed under his direction. From the revival of literature, at this period, he met with authors whoſe accounts of the affairs of antiquity induced him to ſuppoſe a voyage might be made to the Eaſt Indies by ſailing round Africa. He therefore engaged the beſt ſeamen he could procure, and fitting out a ſingle ſhip, he ſent her under the command of John Gonzales Zarco, and Triſtan Vaz, with orders to get beyond Cape Bajador. In this they failed, but in 1418 they met with the iſland of Porto Santo. A new expedition ſoon after followed, conſiſting of three ſhips, and Bartholomew Pe-

reſtrello was added to the former commanders. The iſland of Madeira was diſcovered by them in 1420, which was then uninhabited: but it was ſoon colonized, and vines and ſugar canes being planted there, it became highly advantageous to the mother country.

In 1433 Gilianez, who commanded one of prince Henry's ſhips, paſſed cape Bajador, and in a few years after other Portugueſe veſſels entered the river Senegal, and coaſted along from Cape Blanco to Cape de Verd. What aſtoniſhed them moſt, was the race of negroes, on the other ſide of the river Senegal, whilſt on that next Portugal, they met only with people like the Moors. Edward, who ſucceeded his father John, equally ſupported the naval expeditions of Henry, as did alſo Pedro the ſecond brother, who, on the death of Edward, became guardian to his nephew Alphonſo V. then a minor.

Henry, fully perſuaded that great diſcoveries were to be made, ſolicited and obtained from Pope Eugene IV. a grant to the crown of Portugal, of all the countries they had diſcovered

or ſhould diſcover, from Cape Non to the continent of India. Genoeſe and Venetian ſailors were then courted into the Portugueſe ſervice, and before the year 1453, the Cape de Verd and Azores iſlands were added to the dominions of Portugal.

SIXTH LETTER.

I SHALL now proceed to France where Philip I. was on the throne. Becoming enamoured with Bertrade, the wife of Foulkes, count of Anjou, he reſolved to get rid of his own queen, and marry the former. This he accompliſhed by getting, through the medium of ſome of his clergy, not only a divorce from his wife, but alſo between the lady he ſought and her huſband. Urban II. the then Pope, being highly offended at this attack on his juriſdiction, firſt denounced the leſſer excommunication on Philip, which not proving effectual, he iſſued the greater. This produced a ſcene of blood and confuſion which induced Philip to purchaſe a pardon from the Holy See; and as his firſt queen had died of grief, he made all the atonement in his power, by aſſociating her ſon Lewis in the throne. Bertrade who had alſo ſons by Philip, being highly diſpleaſed at this, attempted to remove Lewis,

by poiſon, but ſhe failed in her abominable purpoſe.

Lewis VI. ſurnamed the Groſs, ſucceeded to the ſole power on the death of his father Philip. He had many wars with Henry I. of England; and had likewiſe to guard againſt the hoſtile deſigns of the emperor Henry V. By his great exertions, he however brought ſuch armies into the field as enabled him to bid defiance to both. He alſo managed his nobles with great prudence, making them more ſubmiſſive to his will, than any king that had preceded him. He conſiderably added to the dominions of France, by marrying Lewis, his ſon and ſucceſſor to the heireſs of Guiene and Aquitaine: and he is juſtly eſteemed one of the beſt and wiſeſt of the French monarchs.

Lewis VII. ſurnamed the Young, was only eighteen years old at his father's death; and the haughty nobles being inclined to throw off the ſubordination exacted in the late reign, ſome civil wars were the conſequence. In oneof theſe, a church was burned by Lewis's orders, in which 1300 people periſhed. To expiate this, he en-

gaged in a cruſade in 1147, the event of which you have elſewhere ſeen. In this expedition he had been accompanied by Eleanor his queen, and on his return he divorced her for notorious adultery. He at the ſame time reſtored to her Guiene and Aquitaine, and in order to obtain thoſe provinces, Henry, duke of Normandy, afterwards Henry II. of England, meanly eſpouſed her: after which ſeveral battles were fought between the armies of her new and former huſband.

Lewis encreaſed the regal power, by granting certain privileges to all the towns in his own demeſnes, on condition that the inhabitants ſhould repair to his ſtandard when required. This enabled the ſovereign to raiſe troops independent of his haughty vaſſals, and the ſame ſteps were taken both in England and Germany. Among other privileges, theſe new citizens had the right of chooſing their ſheriffs, mayors, and other municipal officers.

Philip II. ſurnamed Auguſtus, the next king of France, was engaged in a war with Henry II. of England. He, however made peace, in order

to go on a cruſade, and for the ſame reaſon he continued the treaty with Richard, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Henry. The event of that expedition has fallen in elſewhere, and I ſhall only add here, that when Richard was detained by the duke of Auſtria, and the emperor, Philip ſeized on ſeveral places in Normandy, which Richard afterwards obliged him to reſtore.

Philip had highly offended the Holy See, by unjuſtly putting away his queen, in order to marry another. For this his kingdom was interdicted, and he himſelf excommnicated. But on the Pope's quarrel with John, king of England, a reconciliation took place, on the queen being reſtored. One of Philip's reaſons for thus yielding, was his hopes of becoming maſter of England, through the influence of the See of Rome, but John's ſubmiſſion, as you will elſewhere ſee, gave a different aſpect to his affairs.

Philip had now to withſtand a powerful combination. The count of Flanders, the emperor of Germany, and John, king of England, having agreed to conquer and divide France, amongſt them. Philip no way diſmayed, at this formi-

dable junction, took the field, and gaining the battle of Bouvines in Flanders, he effectually baffled all their intentions. His ſon Lewis then went to aſſiſt Simon de Montfort againſt the Albigenſes. After this, that young prince was invited into England, where in another place we ſhall ſee him for a ſhort time wearing its crown. This attempt being contrary to the Pope's treaty with king John, Innocent III. excommunicated both Philip and his ſon; but the French clergy refuſed to give efficacy to the orders of the See of Rome, ſo far as related to the Father. Philip at his death, was maſter of all the provinces on the continent that had belonged to the Engliſh kings, and his kingdom was in perfect tranquility.

The Engliſh got back a part of what had been taken from them under the next reign of Lewis VIII. who died during an expedition he made againſt the Albigenſes, at the inſtigation of the Pope: and Lewis IX. beſt known by the name of St. Lewis, being then only 12 years old, Blanche, his mother, aſſumed the regency. This was oppoſed by twelve great vaſſals, whom Philip Auguſtus had created Peers of France, with

peculiar privileges. Blanche however, who was a woman of gallantry, as well as a politician, found means to hold the reins of government during the minority. About this time the French count de Champagne, got the kingdom of Navarre in right of his mother. He then became a cruſader, and was accompanied by many Frenchmen of diſtinction. And on their return they introduced the eaſtern manners into Paris, which greatly improved the barbarous taſte of thoſe times.

St. Lewis having aſſumed the government, began with checking the eccleſiaſtic uſurpations. The clergy had inſiſted on the civil officers ſeizing the eſtates of excommunicated perſons, without any enquiry as to their offences. This St. Lewis poſitively forbade. He alſo in other inſtances reſtrained the biſhops from implicit obedience to the See of Rome: and the rules then laid down were nearly the ſame of what were afterwards called the Pragmatic Sanction. This great king likewiſe turned his thoughts to civil affairs. He eſtabliſhed the right of appeal to the royal judges in all caſes: and private wars

were prohibited. He was alſo very attentive to his revenues, and was thereby enabled to purchaſe ſeveral additional territories; for as yet the monarch's wealth conſiſted in the produce of the crown lands. Thus ſtrengthened, he was not only able to meet Edward, III. of England in the field, but obliged him to purchaſe peace. The royal family of France about this time received an acquiſition, by the death of Raymond, the laſt earl of Toulouſe, Alonſo, the brother of St. Lewis, and ſon-in-law to Raymond, becoming poſſeſſed of that territory.

During a fit of ſickneſs St. Lewis made a vow, that he would engage in a cruſade if he recovered. He therefore raiſed a great army, and attended by all his conſiderable feudatories, proceeded on this expedition, the event of which we have ſeen elſewhere. Joinville, one of the noblemen who went with him, was alſo the hiſtorian of thoſe times.

On the king's return to France, he quelled ſeveral inſurrections that had broke out during his abſence. He likewiſe compromiſed ſome differences that ſubſiſted between him and The-

obald king of Navarre, to whom he gave a daughter in marriage. He was on the beſt terms with Henry III. of England, and in ſuch eſtimation was he held by the Engliſh, that he was jointly fixed on by Henry and the barons, to ſettle a difference that had ariſen between them.

Charles of Anjou, the brother of St. Lewis, had at this time a kingdom preſented to him by the Pope. It was that of Naples and Sicily, and Charles actually became maſter of both; without even a ſhadow of right. His newly acquried territories being greatly afflicted by the depredations of the piratical ſtate of Tunis, he prevailed on his brother to embark in an expedition againſt it. But Lewis died ſoon after he landed of an epidemic diſeaſe. This happened in the year 1270, and his laſt breath was ſpent in inculcating to Philip, his ſon and ſucceſſor, the true principles of government, and the duties of a king.

During the reign of this good and great prince, France enjoyed a degree of happineſs, with which ſhe had been but little acquainted. He

gave his ſubjects a code of laws, which he cauſed to be punctually adminiſtered. Manufactures, agriculture, and the arts, met every encouragement in his power. Indeed his heart and his head ſeem to have been at all times employed in purſuing the happineſs of his ſubjects: and, except his cruſading, it would be hard to find a fault in his adminiſtration.

Philip III. ſurnamed the Hardy, ſucceeded his father Lewis, and immediately withdrew the forces from Tunis, to which place he had accompanied them. On the death of his firſt wife he married Mary, daughter to the duke of Brabant; and he had afterwards the misfortune of loſing his only ſon by his prior marriage. What added to that calamity was, an accuſation againſt Mary of being the cauſe of it. But in a trial by combat that followed, the champion for her ſucceeded, and the accuſer was hanged on a gibbet, at the ſame time that her innocence was declared. Soon after this, ſeveral of the firſt families in France ſuffered ſeverely by the maſſacre, called the Sicilian Veſpers; many of the French nobility being amongſt the ſlain.

Charles of Valois, to whom the Pope gave the crown of Arragon on this occaſion, afterwards, from his ill ſucceſs in attempting to obtain it, is ſuppoſed to have died of grief: and Charles of Anjou much about the ſame time put an end to himſelf, on hearing of his ſon being defeated and taken priſoner in a ſea engagement with the Aragoneſe, which he had entered into contrary to his father's orders.

Philip IV. or the Fair, who now ſucceeded to the crown of France, beſides the dominions of his father; was poſſeſſed of Navarre in right of his wife, and the counties of Champagne and Bar alſo belonged to him. During his reign internal tranquillity was preſerved, and a war in which he was engaged with England had no important conſequences. A quarrel he got into with Pope Boniface VIII. was more ſerious. Boniface as vicar of Chriſt claimed abſolute authority both in ſpiritual and temporal affairs. To the former Philip acquieſced, but abſolutely denied the latter; and feeling that he could only be ſupported by his people, he gave them new rights and privileges. In return they ſtood

by him, and he not only bade defiance to the papal thunder but in a war that followed, Boniface was taken priſoner: and that Pontiff dying ſoon after, the next Pope was more accommodating.

Of all the inſtitutions of knighthood produced by the cruſades, the templars had become the richeſt and moſt powerful. They were now accuſed of the moſt deteſtable practices; and of the moſt execrable ceremonies, in mockery of the Chriſtian religion. Two of their own order openly charged them with theſe crimes, and Philip by a preconcerted plan, had all that were ſettled in his dominions ſeized in one day. On many of them Pope Clement V. ſat perſonally in judgment. The remainder were tried by inquiſitors: and moſt of them ſuffered death. Numbers confeſſed their guilt, but then it was when they were actually under torture or in dread of it: and others perſiſted in their innocence to the laſt.

It is unlikely that they ſhould have been guilty of the impious ceremonies with which they were charged; and it is generally believed

that the accuſations againſt them and their condemnation, ſprung from the avarice of Philip who wiſhed to poſſeſs himſelf of their vaſt riches: but their real exceſſes and debaucheries had ſo alienated the affections of the multitude, that an attack on them was rather popular than otherwiſe. Philip therefore had nothing to fear from their deſtruction, and the greateſt part of their wealth went into his coffers. The Pope however had a ſhare, and a ſmall part was beſtowed on the knights of Rhodes and Malta. This treatment of the templars in France, was followed by the kings of every other country where they had ſettled; and the order was totally ſuppreſſed by the Holy See.

Flanders which was a fief to France, attempting to ſhake off the yoke, Philip turned his arms to that quarter. In the conteſt that followed he had various ſucceſs, but was at length obliged to yield to terms, very different from the ſubjection he had required. The cloſe of his reign was embittered by a ſevere domeſtic calamity. The wives of his three ſons were detected in adultery. She who had married

Lewis the eldeſt was ſtrangled—the other two were ſhut up in priſon—and the three Paramours were flayed alive.

The chief alterations made by Philip in the civil arrangement were, the admitting the third eſtate into the national aſſemblies—erecting the courts of judicature called parliaments—and the abolition of trial by combat, as to matters of property. He was a prince of great parts, and was undoubtedly highly uſeful to his country; but in his own nature he was a cruel avaricious tyrant.

Lewis X. ſurnamed Hutin who ſucceeded his father Philip, found the treaſury exhauſted, and the nobles diſcontented. He only reigned 20 months, and his conduct was ſuch, that his death was not regretted. Dying without male iſſue, his uncle Philip V. ſurnamed the Long, was raiſed to the throne, to the excluſion of Lewis's daughter. This was in conformity to the Salique law, which excluded females from poſſeſſing the regal dignity. Philip now endeavoured a redreſs of grievances, and to oblige the chief vaſſals to pay obedience to the laws.

But he met with great oppoſition, and at his death in 1322 France was in a ſtate very little ſhort of anarchy.

Charles IV. or the Fair, ſucceeded his brother Philip. He had ſome diſputes with England and concluded a treaty with the Scotch. But the moſt remarkable circumſtance of his reign, was the obtaining a divorce from his queen, becauſe ſhe had been his godmother, and was alſo related to him in the 4th degree; tho' the Pope had before refuſed it, for a charge of adultery.

On his death without iſſue, Edward III. of England was his next heir, but Edward derived through the female line, and the peers of France thinking him excluded by the Salique law, declared in favor of Philip of Valois, who was couſin german to the late king, and his next heir by the male line. This produced a war in which many of the chief nobility of France periſhed, and Philip himſelf was wounded. But the moſt memorable event was the ſiege of Calais. After a moſt obſtinate defence, Edward granted them the hard terms of ſparing the in-

habitants and garriſon, on their delivering up ſix citizens for execution, with halters about their necks. Euſtace De St. Piere the governor having communicated this offer to the aſſembled people a dead ſilence enſued. This was broke by St. Piere himſelf, who declared he would be one of the victims. Three others followed his glorious example, and the remaining two were added by lot. This magnanimous conduct being related in the preſence of Edward; and his queen at the ſame time ſoliciting for theſe virtuous men, the king changed his purpoſe, and reſtored them to liberty.

In the year 1349 the prince of Dauphiny, whoſe title was that of Dauphin, having loſt all his children, retired from the world, and beſtowed his territories on Charles the grandſon of Philip and afterwards king of France: and from thenceforth the preſumptive heir to the French crown was called Dauphin. Philip alſo added to his territories by different purchaſes, but the wealth that enabled him to do ſo was acquired by means of additional taxes, and a debaſement of the coin. During his reign which laſted 23

years, the French parliaments made a bold reſiſtance to papal tyranny. And whenever bulls were iſſued againſt the rights of the king, or the Gallican church, they conſtantly interpoſed.

John ſurnamed the Good ſucceeded his father Philip, and very ſoon offended and alarmed his barons, by cauſing the conſtable of France to be put to death on a ſuſpicion of treaſon, without any form of trial. He then endeavoured to regain their affections by giving numerous entertainments, and by inſtituting a new order called the Star. On freſh diſturbances breaking out with England, he alſo gratified the people by aſſembling the three eſtates of the kingdom. The third eſtate you have ſeen introduced before, but this ſeems the æra in which regular meetings of the three orders were eſtabliſhed. The clergy took precedence, with the archbiſhop of Rheims at their head. Next came the nobles and gentry, with their ſpeaker. And laſt in order the deputies from the provinces, with the provoſt of the merchants of Paris, as their preſident. The parliament of Paris was ſuffered

to attend this meeting though entirely diſtinct from it, and their chancellor propounded the king's wants. The aſſembled ſtates now voted a ſupply as required, but at the ſame time ſtated what they deemed the grievances of the nation. Theſe both John and his ſon Charles were ſworn to redreſs, and the king at the ſame time ſigned a charter of nearly the ſame nature as the Magna Charta of England.

The ſtanding army to be maintained during the war with England was 30,000 men, and it ſeems the firſt inſtance in France of a regular force paid by taxes laid on by an aſſembly of the ſtates; and which were to be levied off the ſubjects at large. Theſe troops were in addition to thoſe which the king had a right to call out, under the feudal tenures.

The conteſt with the Engliſh was carried on with various ſucceſs till the year 1356, when the loſs of the battle of Poictiers threw France into a dreadful ſituation. John was wounded and taken priſoner. One of his ſons was alſo made a captive. Two dukes with 19 counts

were amongſt the ſlain; and the army was totally defeated.

It is neceſſary in this place to obſerve that Navarre was again a diſtinct kingdom under a prince deſcended by the female line from Lewis X. the Salique Law not being acknowledged there. On this misfortune of John, the king of Navarre put in his claim to the crown of France, and the dauphin of courſe oppoſed him. A civil war was the conſequence, and tumults, aſſaſſinations, and every kind of rapine and plunder, pervaded the kingdom.

Charles V. ſurnamed the Wiſe ſucceeded John, who died in captivity. He found the kingdom at a very low ebb, though he had obliged the king of Navarre to give up his pretenſions. His prudent conduct however brought about a very rapid change. And by Gueſclin's leading the freebooters and diſbanded forces into Spain to the amount of 40,000 men, as you have elſewhere ſeen, the country was relieved from their rapine and other exceſſes.

War again commenced between the French and the Engliſh, the latter being ſecretly ſup-

ported by the Flemings, and openly joined by the king of Navarre. The army raiſed to oppoſe theſe enemies, was put under the command of Gueſclin, who had returned from Spain, and who was now raiſed to the dignity of conſtable of France. By his courage and conduct he baffled all the attempts of the forces oppoſed to him; and he alſo wreſted the provinces of Gaſcony and Guienne from the Engliſh. Charles was the firſt of the French kings of his line, who ceaſed to head their armies in perſon. He however attended to the civil adminiſtration, and nearly ſuppreſſed all private wars between his vaſſals. He alſo put the finances in better order than they had been for a long time previous to his reign. Literature had likewiſe his attention, and he encreaſed the royal library from 20 vols. to 900.

On the death of this amiable prince, his ſon Charles VI. being only 12 years old, his uncle Lewis, duke of Anjou, was appointed regent. He began with diſgracing the ſervants of the late king, and groſsly miſmanaged public affairs. Joan queen of Naples having adopted him, he

then went into Italy to ſupport his claim to the ſucceſſion of that crown; by which he exhauſted the treaſury. And new and heavy taxes being laid on, they occaſioned different riſings of the people, many of whom were executed. His death did not make any material change for the better, as the duke of Burgundy who became regent, was very little qualified for government. To add to the diſcontents of the nation, the Popes, who now reſided at Avignon, had drawn vaſt ſums from France, and every one looked anxiouſly for the moment, when the young king ſhould be of ſufficient age to aſſume the government.

Charles on attaining to manhood immediately recalled the moſt faithful of his father's miniſters. But his good intentions were fruſtrated by a fit of lunacy, and having put to death ſome of the people about him, he was confined. His uncles the dukes of Berry and Burgundy then became regents, to the excluſion of the duke of Orleans, who was brother to the king. The queen was alſo diſguſted with this arrangement, and ſhe and Orleans were ſoon at the head of

a formidable party, which in a ſhort time drove out the king's uncles. Whilſt different factions were thus diſturbing France at home, the Geneoſe threw off the French yoke, maſſacring the governor and all who were of that nation within their territories. And very ſoon after this a French army with a number of the nobility, who went to the aid of Sigiſmund king of Hungary, were cut to pieces at Nicopolis, by the Turks.

Charles had ſome lucid intervals, in one of which he held a council. It was attended by the dukes of Burgundy, Berry, and Bourbon, together with the kings of Navarre and Naples. By them the conduct of Orleans and the queen was condemned; but a compromiſe took place, that in future a council of ſtate ſhould adminiſter public affairs. Never perhaps was the court of France more abominable than at this period. The king was the gallant of the ducheſs of Orleans, and the duke of Orleans was equally criminal with the queen. The chief nobility of both ſexes were profligate to a great degree, and added to theſe vices, a moſt ſavage diſpoſi-

tion marked the conduct of thoſe in power. The reconciliation that had taken place could not long exiſt between ſuch characters. Freſh diſputes aroſe, particularly between the dukes of Burgundy and Orleans. Theſe were again ſettled, and they ſwore at the altar to be friends; notwithſtanding which the latter was aſſaſſinated in a few days after, and Burgundy avowed it. He then ſeized the perſon of the king, the queen and the other princes of the blood being unable to oppoſe him: for independent of his party in France, he was a powerful prince, being the ſovereign of Flanders and Artois. A civil war was the conſequence of this conduct, in which the queen and dauphin headed a ſecond party: and a third was formed under the count of Armagnac, father-in-law to the late duke of Orleans. Aſſaſſination, and every mode of vengeance and deſtruction was exerciſed by all, and the wretched king became alternately in the power of each; according to their various ſucceſs. The party of the queen and dauphin, at length ſunk into the other two, who divided Paris and the kingdom, and every where filled

it with blood and deſolation. Such was the ſtate of France when Henry V. of England invaded it, and laid claim to the crown.

The landing of the Engliſh gave a new turn to affairs. All united to meet the common enemy, and a powerful army was ſent to oppoſe them, under the command of the conſtable D'Albert. Henry had raſhly penetrated into the country ſo as to be placed in a ſituation at a place called Agincourt, that he muſt either ſurrender or engage an army of upwards of 60,000 men, with only one third of that number. He however reſolved to conquer or to die, and the reſult was a complete victory. The conſtable, ſeven pinces of the blood, and near 8000 noblemen and gentlemen were amongſt the ſlain; aud five princes of the blood were made priſoners. The loſs of the Engliſh was only 1700 men, and very few of them were of any note. All the advantage however derived from this ſucceſs was, Henry's being able to retreat to Calais, without any further oppoſition. The loſs ſuſtained by this battle, raiſed the power of the queen, and having obtained letters

patent from the king, ſhe took upon herſelf the government. Two dauphins had died ſince Charles's malady, and the now dauphin, afterwards Charles VII. had attained the age of ſixteen. The avarice and gallantry of the queen highly offending the young prince, he threw himſelf into the arms of the faction which was headed by the count Armagnac. Soon after this Charles had another lucid interval, and being informed of his wife's improper conduct, he impriſoned her, and had the lord of Bois-Bourdon, her ſuppoſed gallant drowned, in the Seine.

On the queen's obtaining her liberty ſhe joined the duke of Burgundy, who thereby regained the lead in public affairs. Freſh ſcenes of blood took place, and amongſt thoſe who loſt their lives, was the count Armagnac and ſeveral lords of his party. Henry V. now re-entered France with a powerful army; and a re-union of the contending French becoming indiſpenſable, a meeting was propoſed between the dauphin and the duke of Burgundy. The precautions taken to prevent either party aſſaſſinating

the other, at this interview, is in itſelf a ſtrong proof of the ſavage temper of the times; and the event was ſtill more ſo. For notwithſtanding they were to meet on a bridge attended only by ten knights each, Tonguidu Chatel, a favorite of the dauphin, contrived to put Burgundy to death. This happened in 1419, and Philip the Good, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Burgundy immediately threw his whole weight into the ſcale of Henry V. The queen alſo declared for him, having previouſly entered into a treaty by which Henry was to marry Catherine her daughter, the ſiſter of the dauphin. The crown of France was then to remain to the preſent king for life, and Henry to act as regent. And on the death of Charles, Henry in his own right was to become the monarch of France. This agreement was approved of by the parliament of Paris, and was ratified by the three eſtates of the kingdom.

The marriage being ſolemnized, one of the firſt acts of Henry was, to ſummons the dauphin to ſtand his trial for the murder of the duke of Burgundy; and not appearing he was con-

demned and outlawed. But Henry did not long ſurvive this; and his death gave a very different turn to the affairs of France.

The unfortunate Charles VI. lived only two months longer than the Britiſh monarch. Henry, the ſon of Catherine by Henry V. then in his cradle, and who had been acknowledged in England, was now proclaimed at Paris; and the regency of France was committed to his uncle the duke of Bedford. The dauphin, who had taken the title of Charles VII. though in a perilous ſituation, did not deſpair. But in fact all his expectations now depended on raiſing the ſiege of Orleans, the only place of conſequence that remained in his poſſeſſion.

In this critical ſituation, the efforts of a woman decided the fate of Charles. This was Joan, the daughter of a French peaſant, ſince known by the name of the Maid of Orleans. She declared ſhe was divinely inſpired, cloathed herſelf in armour, and girded on a ſword that had been depoſited in one of the French churches. The dauphin at leaſt pretended to believe her aſſertions, and ſhe promiſed to raiſe

the ſiege, provided the mode of doing it ſhould be intruſted to her care. It was ſo, and the Engliſh were actually forced to abandon it. On that, and various other occaſions, ſhe diſplayed the moſt undaunted courage; till at length, both the French and Engliſh believing her powers ſupernatural, the former followed her without fear, and the latter at her approach were ſtruck with diſmay. After different ſucceſſes, Rheims, the uſual place of placing the diadem on the heads of the French monarchs, was taken; and having crowned Charles, ſhe then declared her miſſion was ended. She was however over-perſuaded to continue her ſervices, and ſoon after fell into the hands of the Engliſh. An accuſation of ſorcery was then inſtituted, and ſeven biſhops, together with the vicar of the inquiſition, and the doctors of the univerſity of Paris, found her guilty. Their firſt ſentence was, that ſhe ſhould be impriſoned for life, and fed on bread and water.—But ſhe having afterwards dreſſed herſelf in men's cloaths, which were purpoſely laid in her

way; this heroine, to the diſgrace of the Engliſh name, was committed to the flames.

The capture of the Maid of Orleans had for a time raiſed the drooping ſpirits of the Engliſh. But Philip duke of Burgundy being at length reconciled to Charles, the latter was every where ſucceſsful: and in the year 1453, very little remained in France to Henry VI. of England, except the town of Calais.

Charles, having thus recovered his kingdom, diſpoſed of his army in a manner highly judicious. The beſt troops he kept embodied, but employed them in making good roads, when not engaged in military operations. The others were diſperſed through the provinces, and got a trifling allowance, in conſideration of which, they were to re-aſſemble when called on, and, till then, they exerciſed ſuch trades or occupations as they thought proper. In eccleſiaſtical matters he was alſo highly uſeful to his country. The council of Baſil having quarrelled with the Pope, ſubmitted their decrees to the conſideration of Charles, who thereupon called an aſſembly of the ſtates of France to decide upon

them. Being approved of by that meeting, they were adopted as the rules of the Gallican church, and were called the Pragmatic Sanction. By this it was eſtabliſhed, amongſt other things, that the Gallican clergy ſhould fill up all vacancies in church preferments; but the king was to have a negative. Annates, reſervations and reverſions, which were great ſources of wealth to the Pope, were aboliſhed. But a final appeal in eccleſiaſtical affairs was ſtill permitted to the ſee of Rome. Beſides theſe regulations in military and clerical matters, Charles reſtored the regular courſe of civil and criminal juſtice. Faction was ſuppreſſed—the finances recruited—and peace and good order were re-eſtabliſhed. And it is in fact from the commencement of the next æra that France began to take a lead in the affairs of Europe.

SEVENTH LETTER.

WILLIAM the Conqueror died in the year 1087, leaving Normandy to Robert his eldeſt ſon—England to William Rufus his ſecond—and moſt of his perſonal property to Henry his third ſon. Theſe brothers very ſoon fell out with each other, but were afterwards reconciled. And Robert having reſolved on a cruſade to the Holy Land, equipped himſelf and his forces, by mortgaging Normandy to William. The latter was alſo put in poſſeſſion of Guienne and Poictu by the ſame means, their prince being alſo a needy cruſader. What was thus lent by the Engliſh monarch had been chiefly raiſed off his clergy.

England was extremely diſcontented during this reign, neither the natives nor principal Normans being ſatisfied. The former were juſtly irritated at the tyrannic acts of their conquerors; and the latter having poſſeſſions both in England and Normandy wiſhed both coun-

tries united under one head. Some diſturbances were raiſed by Henry III. ſon of William the Conqueror, who endeavoured, without ſucceſs, to poſſeſs himſelf of ſome of the territories left by his father. But the chief events of William's reign were, the humbling the Welch—the obliging the Scotch to place the rightful heir to their crown on the throne—and the baniſhing St. Anſelm, archbiſhop of Canterbury. The latter had ſupported claims on the part of the church, highly inimical to the rights of the crown, and William, even in thoſe days of ignorant ſuperſtition, had the fortitude not to ſubmit to them.

William loſt his life whilſt hunting in the new forerſt that had been erected by his father. His death was occaſioned by an arrow that had been ſhot at one of the animals they were purſuing, but which had accidentally hit the king. This prince dying without iſſue, his crown devolved on his brother Robert. But he being abſent, Henry ſeized the crown. Conſcious that he was a uſurper, the latter inſtantly felt that he could only ſecure the throne by ingra-

tiating himſelf with every deſcription of his ſubjects. For this purpoſe, he granted a charter by which many of the Saxon laws were revived; and he likewiſe recalled Anſelm, at the ſame time ratifying the chief privileges claimed by the clergy. By marrying Matilda, the daughter of Malcolm III. of Scotland, and the niece of Edgar Atheling, he alſo afforded the Engliſh the agreeable proſpect of a ſucceſſor, ſprung by the female ſide from their Saxon kings, and who would be likely equally to favor every claſs of his ſubjects. Thus fortified, he baffled every attempt of Robert, who was at length taken priſoner, and confined in the caſtle of Cardiff in Wales, where he died. On Robert's captivity, Henry had invaded Normandy, where he however found a competitor in William, the ſon of his unfortunate brother. The latter being ſupported by the French monarch, his juſt claims were likely to be eſtabliſhed, till Henry invaded with ſo powerful an army as decided the conteſt in his favor. And ſome years afterwards, the death of William,

the ſon of Robert, put an end to all further competition.

On Henry's return to England, he loſt his only ſon, the ſhip in which he was having ſtruck on a rock. At firſt, the young prince, whoſe name was William, had got ſafe off in a boat, when perceiving his natural ſiſter on the wreck, he returned to ſave her. A croud then ruſhing in, the boat overſet, and every perſon that had been on board the ſhip, ſave one obſcure paſſenger, periſhed. Amongſt thoſe who thus loſt their lives, were 140 young noblemen who had accompanied the prince; ſo that all the principal families in England were involved in this calamity: and it had ſuch an effect on Henry, that he was never ſeen to ſmile afterwards.

The only remaining legitimate iſſue of the king was Matilda, the widow of the emperor Henry V, by whom ſhe had no iſſue. He now gave her in marriage to Geoffrey Plantagenet, the eldeſt ſon of the count of Anjou. And he prevailed on the barons both of England and Normandy to ſwear allegiance to her as his

ſucceſſor; ſoon after which ſhe was delivered of a ſon named Henry.

Though the king had recalled Anſelm, new diſputes aroſe as to the extent of the clerical power in England. The Popes of courſe ſided with the archbiſhop, and Henry was glad to compromiſe matters. The barons alſo aimed at an encreaſe of power, and the regal authority was a good deal curtailed during this reign, which ended in the year 1135.

On the death of Henry, notwithſtanding their oaths to acknowledge Matilda, the barons raiſed Stephen, the ſon of a count of Blois, by a daughter of William the Conqueror, to the throne. Stephen himſelf had taken the ſame oath, and was beſides under great obligations to the laſt monarch; but ambition over-ruled his gratitude, and his conſcience was ſatisfied, by getting a bull from the Pope, which confirmed his uſurpation.

The chief object both with the nobility and clergy in thus preferring Stephen, was to aggrandize themſelves, as they foreſaw he muſt reſt on their ſupport. They were accordingly

ſuffered to build caſtles, and ſtrongly fortify them, at the ſame time garriſoning them with their followers. This ſoon produced three diſtinct parties in the ſtate. The king and thoſe immediately attached to him. The barons who now exerciſed all the rights of royalty within their reſpective juriſdictions. And the clergy, with the bulk of the people, who were not immediately dependant on the king or the barons. Of theſe three bodies, that headed by the king was by much the moſt inſignificant; and finding the regal power almoſt annihilated, he endeavoured to encreaſe it, by ſeizing on ſome ſtrong fortreſſes poſſeſſed by the clergy. This produced a violent faction, headed by Stephen's brother the biſhop of Wincheſter, and Matilda was invited into England. In the civil war that followed Matilda proved ſucceſsful, and Stephen was made priſoner. But conducting herſelf with great haughtineſs, and the biſhop of Wincheſter deſerting her cauſe, a new revolution reſtored Stephen, and obliged her to fly. Freſh differences however ſoon aroſe between him and the clergy and barons, which induced Matilda's

ſon Henry, who had now attained to manhood, to land with a powerful army. A compromiſe was the conſequence, by which it was agreed that Stephen ſhould hold the ſceptre for life, and Henry was to ſucceed on his death. During the troubles of Stephen's reign the court of Rome failed not to encreaſe its power, and appeals to the Pope in eccleſiaſtical affairs, though formerly prohibited, were now become extremely common. As I ſhall not give a ſeparate letter to Scotland, I ſhall here obſerve, that during the conteſt between Stephen and Matilda, David its king received a dreadful overthrow. He was uncle to Matilda, and had marched to her aid.

On the death of Stephen in 1154, Henry II. came to the throne of England, with a full and undiſputed title. He was alſo in the peaceable poſſeſſion of Normandy, which he inherited from his grandfather Henry I. He had likewiſe Anjou and Mayne, which deſcended to him from his father. And in right of his wife, whom Lewis VII. of France had, as I have before

mentioned, divorced for her adulteries, he was entitled to the provinces of Guienne and Poitou. Thus powerful, he reſolved to regain from the barons and clergy all the regal power that had been loſt during the late reign. In purſuit of this object, he deſtroyed many caſtles that had been erected in ſtrong ſituations: and by granting charters to ſeveral towns, he laid a foundation for the power of the people.

Henry had to chaſtiſe the Welſh, and was likewiſe engaged in a trivial war on the continent with Lewis VII. of France. On that occaſion, for the firſt time after the Norman conqueſt, the great vaſſals gave money in lieu of the perſonal attendance of themſelves and their followers, for forty days. This enabled the king to raiſe a force entirely dependant on himſelf. And all parties deeming this commutation beneficial, it afterwards became a common practice.

During this reign the clergy were even more formidable than the great barons, owing to the groſs ſuperſtition of the people. At their head was Becket, a man whom the king had raiſed

from a very humble ſituation to the ſee of Canterbury, and to the high office of chancellor of England. Becket had alſo been appointed legate to the Pope, and as he aſſumed the appearance of humility and piety, and wore ſack-cloth next his ſkin, the great maſs of the people looked up to him with awful reverence.

During the reign of Stephen, the clergy procured nearly a total exemption from taxation. They had alſo thrown off all obedience to the civil juriſdiction, and not leſs than 100 murders had been committed by members of their order with impunity. Becket was now applied to, on account of a new offence of the ſame kind, and of a moſt atrocious nature. He however abſolutely refuſed his aſſent to the clergyman accuſed being tried by the civil juriſdiction, at the ſame time declaring, that an eccleſiaſtic could not be puniſhed with death for any offence whatſoever. Becket then took the meaſure of his puniſhment on himſelf, which was to degrade him, and confine him to a monaſtery.

Henry conceiving ſuch a ſeparation from the civil juriſdiction intolerable, called a council of

his nobles. They ſaw the evil in the ſame light, and the following reſolutions paſſed, ſince called the Conſtitutions of Clarendon. By them, the biſhops were no longer to be ſuffered to go to Rome. No officer of the crown was to be excommunicated or ſuſpended without the king's leave: and the clergy were to be ſubject to the temporal judges. All preſent ſigned them, Becket himſelf not chooſing to refuſe it. But on the Pope's expreſſing his diſapprobation, Becket declared he had been in error, and as an atonement for it, he ſuſpended himſelf from all his functions, until it ſhould pleaſe his Holineſs to reinſtate him, which you may be ſure was not long delayed.

Henry, aware of the powers of the church, contented himſelf with attacking him in his civil capacity. He was accuſed of embezzling the public money as chancellor, and being condemned, he fled into Flanders. The Pope however took Becket's part in ſo decided a manner, that the king found it his intereſt to be reconciled to the haughty archbiſhop.

Becket now entered London as it were in triumph, and diſplayed his eccleſiaſtical power in a higher tone than ever. He excommunicated two Noblemen, and ſuſpended a number of Biſhops, who had been active againſt him: and it became evident that he was bent on making the crown ſubſervient to the church and the papacy. Henry, who was in Normandy, on hearing of theſe proceedings raſhly exclaimed, Is there none to revenge their Monarch's cauſe on this audacious Prieſt? Four Knights who heard him, inſtantly ſet off for England, and finding Becket at the Altar in the Cathedral of Canterbury, they ſlew him. Henry was now accuſed of inſtigating this murder, and dreading the conſequences he made his peace with the Pope. This he did, by taking a ſolemn oath, that he was innocent; and by agreeing to appeals to the Holy See in eccleſiaſtical cauſes, on ſurety being given that nothing ſhould be attempted againſt the rights of his crown. He alſo engaged to ſerve againſt the Infidels either in Spain or Paleſtine, if his Holineſs ſhould require it.

Henry had a favorite miſtreſs called Roſamond Clifford, whom the queen now cut off by poiſon. This produced a quarrel, in which the king's three ſons Henry, Geoffry and Richard, joined their Mother, and rebelled againſt their Father. They were encouraged by the then kings of France and Scotland, and by Philip Count of Flanders, all of whom were jealous of the power of Henry. Many of the Norman and Engliſh barons were alſo on their ſide. But Henry's good fortune prevailed, and they were forced to ſubmit. The king, either from conſidering this domeſtic calamity as a mark of chaſtiſement from heaven for the ſhare he had in Becket's death; or to pleaſe the people, now declared he would pay a viſit to his tomb. This was held peculiarly ſacred, the archbiſhop being deemed a martyr, and the prieſts having declared that miracles were performed at his ſhrine. When Henry came within ſight of Canterbury, he walked barefooted to it, where he ſubmitted to be ſcourged by the monks, and remained all night on the pavement. Beſides this, he re-

ſtored the clergy to all the privileges claimed by them; and the chains of ſuperſtition were thus more firmly rivetted on the people, than if he had never diſputed them with Becket.

Though Henry thus fully reconciled himſelf to the church, his family diſſenſions continued. His ſons Henry and Geoffry, were dead; but Richard inſtigated by Philip of France, ſeduced the principal nobles of Poitou, Guienne, Normandy and Anjou, to his ſtandard. Henry being unſucceſsful in the conteſt was forced to very humiliating terms, one of which was, that he ſhould pay Philip the expences he had been put to in the war. But what hurt him ſtill more was his diſcovering that his youngeſt ſon John, who was his favorite, had joined in the league againſt him. A ſlow fever now attacked him, which prevented his going on a croiſade to Paleſtine, and alſo put an end to his life. He had many faults, but he is juſtly conſidered amongſt the greateſt of the Engliſh kings.

The ſtate of England, at the acceſſion of Richard I. in the year 1189, was as fol-

lows. There were a few free towns and cities: the barons were powerful but ſuperſtitious: and the clergy in fact governed the king, the nobles and the people. In this ſituation, Richard was eaſily induced by the Pope to undertake a croiſade, the event of which you are already acquainted with.

The biſhops of Durham and Ely, to whom the king had committed the government on his departure for the holy land, ſoon diſagreed. John, the king's brother, fomented this quarrel, and, being at the head of the temporal lords, he ſecretly aimed at the ſceptre. His hopes were ſtrengthened by the captivity of Richard, on his return from Paleſtine, and Philip of France united with this unnatural brother, in preventing Richard's obtaining his liberty. He had however the affections of the clergy of his kingdom, and by their exertions a ſum was procured, that obtained his releaſe.

Though Richard was fully informed of John's intrigues, he freely forgave him. He had now ſome wars with Philip of France

that had no important conſequences. According to the laws of England, all hidden treaſure, where the owner was unknown, belonged to the monarch. One of his barons, having found a conſiderable ſum, refuſed to deliver it up; in conſequence of which Richard beſieged his caſtle. During it the king was mortally wounded, and the fortreſs falling into the hands of his forces, every man taken in it was hanged, except the ſoldier who had wounded him, and who was reſerved for a more cruel death. On being interrogated as to his motive for aiming at the life of Richard, he replied that his father, and two brothers, had fallen in battle by that prince's hand; and he cared not what death he ſuffered, ſince he had revenged them. The king, who felt his laſt moments approaching, generouſly forgave him, at the ſame time ordering him a ſum of money, and that he ſhould be reſtored to liberty. But an infamous officer named Marcadee, inſtead of obeying theſe orders, put the priſoner to a death of torture. Richard's beſt quality, was great perſonal

courage, from whence he got the addition of Cœur de Lion. His general diſpoſition was however haughty, overbearing and cruel; though ſometimes, as you have ſeen in the caſes of his brother and the ſoldier; he was capable of great acts of forgiveneſs, and generoſity.

Richard dying without iſſue, declared his nephew Arthur the ſon of Geoffry, and who was his heir at law, his ſucceſſor. Arthur, who was a minor, was then in Bretagne which belonged to him in right of his father. But his uncle John not only uſurped the Britiſh crown, but landing with a conſiderable force on the Continent, he made himſelf maſter of the young prince's perſon. Soon after which Arthur was murdered either by the hand of John, or by his orders.

Conſtance the mother of Arthur, openly accuſed her brother-in-law, of this foul crime, and at her ſolicitation the French monarch ſummoned him as a vaſſal, to anſwer the charge before his peers. He of courſe refuſed to attend; the conſequence of which was, that

all his fiefs in France were declared forfeited, and not being able to defend them, he withdrew his forces from the Continent.

On a vacancy happening in the See of Canterbury, a diſpute now aroſe between the Auguſtine monks, and the biſhops of England, which led to very important conſequences. Both claimed a right to nominate to the vacant See, and each party elected a new archbiſhop. The king declared for him whom the biſhops had choſen, and the monks appealed to Rome. The Pope declared both elections void, but at the ſame time allowed the right to be in the monks, on condition that they ſhould appoint Stephen Langton, an Engliſhman, then reſident at Rome. This, John openly reſiſted. In return the Pope laid his kingdom under an interdict; at the ſame time commanding his ſubjects to withdraw their allegiance, and transfer it to Philip Auguſtus king of France, to whom his Holineſs had transferred the Britiſh crown. Philip was now urged by the Pope to take poſſeſſion of England; and to encourage him, and thoſe who ſupported him,

it was promiſed that all their ſins ſhould be forgiven, provided their efforts proved effectual.

Philip now fitted out a numerous fleet, and raiſed a powerful army; and to oppoſe the intended deſcent, John marched to Dover at the head of 60,000 men. Thus ſtood matters when Pandulph, the Pope's Legate, paſſed from the camp of Philip, to that of the Engliſh monarch. Terrified more at the deteſtation he was held in at home, than even the threatened invaſion, John was ready to liſten to any terms. When Pandulph propoſed he ſhould become tributary to the Pope, he therefore acquieſced, and all the nobles and people, who could conveniently attend, being aſſembled, he in their preſence on his knees, with his hands between thoſe of the legate, took an oath by which he ſurrendered England, and all the royal prerogatives, to the Pope, and his ſucceſſors. The crown was then reſtored to him, as the vaſſal of the See of Rome, and 700 marks were from thenceforth to be annually paid to his Holineſs for Eng-

land, and 300 for Ireland. John being thus reconciled to the Pope, Pandulph returned to France, where he ordered Philip to abandon his intended expedition. This he was not inclined to comply with, but his fleet being beat by the Engliſh, and an attack being made on him by the Emperor Otho IV. he was obliged for the preſent to deſiſt from his purpoſe.

John by this and other acts, drove the great barons to open reſiſtance. They then in military array demanded and obtained a full expoſition of their rights and privileges. This was done by a formal written document, executed by John, and ſince known by the name of Magna Charta.

To give efficacy to the Great Charter, twenty-five barons were appointed, under the name of conſervators of the public liberty. Any four of them had the right of admoniſhing the king againſt what they ſhould deem a grievance; and if he perſiſted, they were then to aſſemble the whole twenty-five, and alſo the great council of the nation. All the freemen

of England were then ſworn to obey theſe twenty-five barons, and the freeholders of each County were reſpectively to depute twelve knights, to enquire into and report ſuch grievances as required redreſs, agreeable to the true conſtruction of the charter.

John had complied through fear and inſtantly meditated a breach of all he had agreed to. The Pope, moſt cordially joining him, excommunicated the barons, which however had no effect, as Langton, archbiſhop of Canterbury, refuſed to enforce it. In the mean time John had ſecretly raiſed a conſiderable foreign force, which he introduced into the kingdom. The barons being totally unprepared, this army every where pillaged them and the people, with impunity. Thus driven to deſpair, the nobles ſolicited Philip of France to accept their crown; but that prince fearful of the power of his Holineſs, declined it. He, however, underhand encouraged his eldeſt ſon Lewis, to cloſe with a like invitation, and he enabled him to invade England with a powerful army. Nothing deciſive happened for ſome time, but

the foreign troops, employed by John, going over to the other ſide, and the City of London, which now began to be of conſequence, declaring for the French and the barons; John was depoſed, and Lewis was actually crowned.

John was ſtill at the head of an army. The giving the ſceptre of England, to a Frenchman, was not congenial to the breaſts of Engliſh nobles. And beſides this, Lewis did not conduct himſelf ſo, as to conciliate their affections. Many of them therefore very ſoon abandoned his ſtandard, and the death of John in 1216 ſettled the buſineſs.

Nothing, but the deteſtation in which the late tyrant was held, could poſſibly have induced the barons to call in a foreigner. Henry III. the infant ſon of John had never offended them. Their affections therefore naturally turned to the young prince, and the Earl of Pembroke, the protector, having wiſely declared, that the Great Charter ſhould have full operation, it had an immediate and powerful effect. The conſequence was, that Lewis after a few feeble efforts, evacuated the king-

dom, and abandoned his pretenſions for ever.

During the regency of Pembroke, the Engliſh enjoyed a conſiderable degree of tranquillity, but when the young king aſſumed the government, an almoſt inſtant change took place. His marriage with Eleanor, a daughter of the Count of Provence, was alſo fatal to the happineſs of the kingdom, a number of foreigners having accompanied her, whoſe inſolence and extortions became intolerable. The king joined in every ſcheme to pillage the people, amongſt whom the Jews peculiarly ſuffered. The money thus iniquitouſly obtained, was ſquandered on whores and favourites. This juſtly drew down the hatred of his ſubjects, and as his only ſupport againſt them was the influence of the Pope, he paid the moſt implicit obedience to his orders. The conſequence was, that all the chief benefices of England were given to Italians, many of whom did not even reſide. Pluralities alſo abounded, and Manſel, who was chaplain to Henry, held at one time between ſix and ſeven hundred

livings. The revenues of all vacant benefices went to Rome. The Pope had likewiſe a twentieth of all eccleſiaſtical revenues, and where any church preferment exceeded the annual ſum of 100 marks, he had a third of the income. Where the clergy did not reſide, he received half: all goods of the clergy, who died inteſtate, were claimed as his right; and over and above theſe ample ſources of revenue, he ſometimes demanded of the people a voluntary donation. The native Engliſh clergy were however ſecretly diſſatisfied, and when a proper opportunity aroſe, they took part againſt the Pope and the monarch.

The barons unable to bear ſuch multiplied oppreſſions, at length revolted; and after a ſhort conteſt Henry agreed to renew the Great Charter, at the ſame time moſt ſolemnly ſwearing to obſerve it. But regardleſs of his oath, he almoſt inſtantly broke it. The nobles, with the Earl of Leiceſter, who was married to the king's ſiſter, at their head, now reſolved to place the government on a footing, that ſhould not depend on the fickle diſpoſi-

tions of a king: and in this they were aided by the native clergy.

The people had now become of ſome conſequence, owing to the increaſe of the free towns and cities, which were raiſed by grants from the kings and nobles. In an arrangement that the barons compelled the king to agree to, we accordingly find the rights of the people conſidered. This was called the Oxford Proviſions, by which twelve barons were ſelected from thoſe who adhered to the king, and twelve more were appointed by a parliament then held in that city. Theſe were to ſettle the ſtate, and the firſt ſtep taken by them was to ſummon four knights from each County, to be elected by the free inhabitants, to ſerve in a new parliament; and this is the firſt inſtance, where the third eſtate was regularly repreſented in England.

This parliament made ſome wholeſome regulations, but the twenty-four barons became too obviouſly bent on agrandizing themſelves, to retain the good opinion of the people. Henry taking advantage of this got the Pope

to abſolve both him and his ſubjects from the oaths they had taken to obſerve the Proviſions of Oxford. A renewal of the civil war followed, which ended in the captivity of Henry and his eldeſt ſon prince Edward, after a deciſive victory gained by the barons near Lewes in Suſſex.

Leiceſter who had taken the lead againſt the king, now exerciſed his power with a high hand. He made himſelf maſter of the eſtates of eighteen barons who had fought for Henry at Lewes. And he not only made all who were of the royal party his enemies, but alſo moſt of the nobles who had followed his own ſtandard, by an overbearing and inſolent conduct. Thus circumſtanced, he looked to the democratic part of the conſtitution for ſupport: and in a new parliament which he called, he ſummoned two knights for each County, and two deputies from each of the Free Towns and Cities. Depending on a parliament ſo conſtituted, he ventured to ſeize the Earl of Derby, at the ſame time threatening other barons, whom he deemed his ene-

mies. Prince Edward at this critical period made his eſcape, and ſetting up the royal ſtandard, he ſoon found himſelf able to meet Leiceſter at Eveſham, where the latter was defeated and ſlain. And the prince made ſo judicious a uſe of his victory, that all parties united in the reſtoration of Henry to the royal authority.

Edward now went to the holy land, where he highly ſignalized himſelf, and, after narrowly eſcaping the hand of an aſſaſſin who wounded him, he returned to England, where he found himſelf its king, his father having died in his abſence. Things were in a good deal of confuſion when he arrived, but, ſtanding high in the opinion of all ranks, he ſoon eſtabliſhed good order. He adhered to the Great Charter himſelf, and he obliged his barons to obey the laws. Juſtice was by theſe means duly adminiſtered, and the people felt, their beſt ſecurity was in the due exerciſe of the royal power.

Thus united at home, Edward ſought for an opportunity of attacking Wales, which he

wiſhed to annex to England. The quarrels between Lewellyn, it's king, and his brothers David and Roderic, ſoon afforded one, the two latter having called him to their aid. After ſeveral conteſts, the war that enſued ended in Lewellyn being ſlain, and the ſubmiſſion of the Welſh nobility and people. But Edward left an indelible ſtain on his character, by hanging David the brother of Lewellyn, under the pretence of his being a traitor, becauſe he ſought the crown of Wales: and a ſtill greater one, by having all the Welſh bards collected together, and then put to death. This latter act aroſe from the ſavage policy of preventing their inciting the people to any future revolts.

The next object with Edward was to get the management of Scotland either directly or indirectly; and in a diſpute as to the ſucceſſion to that crown, he ſo contrived it, as to have himſelf appointed arbitrator. The competitors were John Baliol and Robert Bruce, the firſt of whom was the grandſon of Margaret the eldeſt daughter of the Earl of Hun-

tingdon, who was ſon to David the firſt; and Bruce was the ſon of Iſabel, the ſecond daughter of that Earl. The Engliſh monarch now ſummoned all the Scotch barons to meet him at Norham Caſtle, on the Engliſh ſide of the Tweed, and as a preliminary, he had it ſettled that which ever he declared for ſhould hold the kingdom as a Fief under the Engliſh crown. This claim was founded on William king of Scotland having done homage to Henry II. in order to obtain his liberty, he having been taken priſoner: but Richard I. had afterwards relinquiſhed it. Another preliminary ſtep of Edward's, was his obtaining the poſſeſſion of the ſtrongeſt places in the kingdom of Scotland. He then decided for Baliol, and on his taking the oath of fealty, he was put in poſſeſſion of his territories.

Edward ſoon found a pretence to ſummons Baliol as his vaſſal; and the latter refuſing to attend, the Engliſh monarch reſolved to ſeize the Scottiſh crown, alledging it was forfeited. For this purpoſe he aſſembled a parliament,

compoſed of the nobility and repreſentatives of the people, from whom he obtained the neceſſary ſupply. On the other hand Baliol entered into an alliance with France, and got abſolution from the Pope, for breaking his oath of fealty. The arms of Edward however prevailed, and Baliol, falling into his hands, ſurrendered his kingdom to the conqueror. The Scotch thereupon quietly ſubmitted, and Earl Warrene was appointed their governor.

In France the arms of Edward had not been ſo ſucceſsful. He therefore applied to parliament and the clergy for freſh ſupplies, and obtained them from both: but thoſe proving inadequate, he raiſed more money by arbitrary means. This rouſed the reſentment of the nobility and people, and Edward, wiſely conceding to their juſt remonſtrances, declared, that henceforth no impoſitions or taxes ſhould be laid on, without the conſent of Parliament.

Peace with France was brought about by the Pope, and Guienne the chief cauſe of the war was ceded to England. In Scotland

Warrene had been ſucceeded by Ormſby and Creſſingham, whoſe mal-adminiſtration had created great diſcontent. At this critical period, a very ſingular man called William Wallace was inſulted by an Engliſh officer. In return Wallace put him to death; and in order to ſave himſelf, immediately headed a revolt. Poſſeſſed of all thoſe qualities that fitted him to be a leader, he ſoon became extremely formidable, and the inſurrection becoming univerſal, the Engliſh were obliged to retire. Warrene made an unſucceſsful effort to recover Scotland, but an overthrow he received from Wallace near Sterling, not only compelled him to abandon that country, but gave an opportunity to the victor to penetrate into England.

Edward, who was in Flanders, on hearing of theſe events immediately returned, and levying an army of 100,000 men, they proved victorious at Falkirk. This was probably owing to the chief command having been taken from Wallace, by the nobles, who were jealous of his fame.—The latter, however, in an inferior ſituation, continued his exertions, till he at length fell into

the hands of the Engliſh by whom he was executed as a traitor.

His death ſtimulated the Scotch to freſh efforts, and Robert Bruce, the ſon of him who had been the competitor of Baliol, was ſo ſucceſsful that he had himſelf crowned at Scone. Edward at this time had got to Carliſle in his way to re-enter Scotland, where, fortunately for Bruce, death arreſted his courſe.

England was greatly indebted to Edward, not only for the conqueſt of Wales, but for his internal regulations. He obliged every deſcription of his ſubjects to obey the laws, and he raiſed and aſcertained the power of the commons. Many wiſe acts of parliament were made, and the courts of juſtice were properly regulated: juſtices of the peace were appointed throughout the kingdom, and the nation enjoyed a degree of civilization and happineſs under this great prince, that had been unknown from the reign of Alfred. Edward, therefore, well merited the appellation that was given him, of being the Engliſh Juſtinian.

Edward II. his ſon and ſucceſſor, was a very different character. He had ſhewn a very early diſpoſition to vice, and an infamous man of the name of Gavaſton who had adminiſtered to his improprieties, was baniſhed by his father. Contrary to the dying injunctions of that father. he was now recalled, and the wicked adminiſtration that followed, ptoduced a civil war. During it, Gavaſton was made a priſonner and put to death, and numerous executions took place by both parties. At length Edward himſelf was taken, but on his promiſing to conduct himſelf better in future, he was reſtored to liberty.

After the death of Gavaſton, the war with Scotland was carried on with various ſucceſs, till Edward's hopes were put an end to by a dreadful defeat which he received at Bannockburne. Beſides a rebellion in Wales, he had alſo different diſputes with ſome of his own great barons, and a new favourite called Hugh Spencer, again rendered his government odious. Spencer, who, together with his father directed every thing, at length became ſo obnoxious, that the barons obliged Edward to baniſh them.

But another civil war enſued, and they were recalled. The nobles had the worſt of the conflict, and numbers of them periſhed in the field, and on the ſcaffold. Peace was, however, for a ſhort time reſtored at home, and a truce was concluded with Scotland for thirteen years.

Amongſt the barons who had taken arms againſt the king, was Roger Mortimer. He had eſcaped from the tower, and meeting Edward's queen at Paris, he ſo ingratiated himſelf with her, that ſhe procured his reſtoration to favour. The Spencers ſoon perceiving his riſing influence, endeavoured to ruin him; but the queen having procured the aſſiſtance of an army from her brother Philip king of France, now openly declared in conjunction with Mortimer, that the Spencers muſt be removed. A new civil war was the conſequence, which ended in the execution of thoſe favourites, and the captivity of the king. His depoſition followed, and his ſon Edward III. then only fourteen years old, was raiſed to the throne; but all power was exerciſed by the queen and Mortimer, who was notoriouſly her paramour;

and her unfortunate huſband, after experiencing the groſſeſt indignities, was ſoon after murdered by their orders.

The conduct of this infamous queen and her gallant, now became ſtill more atrocious and tyrannical. The young Edward beholding ſuch ſcenes with juſt indignation, though only eighteen years old, reſolved to put an end to them: and being ſupported by his nobles and people, he was able to bring Mortimer to the block, and to confine his mother to her houſe at Riſings.

During the laſt reign, murder, rapine, and robbery, every where deſolated the kingdom: but by the wiſe exertions of the young monarch order and tranquillity were ſoon reſtored. In Scotland a new conteſt had ariſen between Edward the ſon of John Baliol and David Bruce. Baliol in order to obtain the aid of Edward, now offered to hold his crown as a fief to England. Thus tempted, the Britiſh monarch acceded: and entering Scotland with a conſiderable army, he obtained a victory at Halidown hill which raiſed Baliol to the throne. Frequent

revolts, however, followed, which were ſupported by France, and in return Edward laid claim to that crown. This he did in right of his mother, and his pretenſions were well founded, but for the Saliqee law, which excluded the female line; her only brothers, Philip and Charles IV. of France, having died without iſſue.

The moſt diſtinguiſhed battles in this conteſt with France, were thoſe of Crecy and Poictiers. In the firſt, Edward, Prince of Wales, generally known by the name of the Black Prince, from the colour of his armour, highly diſtinguiſhed himſelf, though he was then only fifteen years old. On that occaſion 40,000 Engliſh completely defeated treble their number. It muſt however be obſerved, they had a few pieces of cannon, then juſt introduced, whilſt the French had none. At Poictiers, 12,000 men under the Black Prince, totally overthrew 60,000, commanded by John their king. The latter was taken priſoner, as you have elſewhere ſeen; but I muſt here add, that the Prince of Wales ſoothed his misfortunes by

ſhowing him the greateſt reſpect, and the kindeſt attention; more ennobling himſelf by ſuch generous conduct, than by the ſplendid victory he had ſo recently obtained.

When Edward III. firſt commenced his conteſt for the crown of France he was moſt indebted for aſſiſtance to a brewer of Ghent, in Flanders. This man, whoſe name was Jacob Van Ardvelt, had acquired an immenſe property, and had eſtabliſhed an unbounded influence over the Flemings. A guard conſtantly attended him, and he appointed or diſplaced all their magiſtrates at his pleaſure. He had ſpies in every Flemiſh city, and if any man dared to offend him he was ſure of being aſſaſſinated.—Thus powerful, he was courted by all the ſurrounding princes, and he was able to afford an ample aſſiſtance where he choſe it, both in men and money.

Much about the time of the battle of Crecy, David Bruce, who had found means to mount the throne of Scotland, entered England. Edward being then in France, Eleanor his queen, not only raiſed a powerful army, but took the

field in perſon. She however gave the command to Lord Percy, who gained a complete victory, and David being taken priſoner, was ſtill in captivity, when John king of France was tranſmitted to England.

The capture of the French king induced Edward to make a new invaſion of France. This produced a treaty, one article of which was, that three millions of crowns were to be paid for the ranſom of John. On the faith of this being performed, that prince was then ſet at liberty. Finding however, on his arrival in France, his inability to raiſe the ſtipulated ſum, he nobly reſolved to deliver himſelf up to the Engliſh. When urged to a contrary conduct, he exclaimed, that if juſtice and good faith were baniſhed from other men, yet kings ſhould ſtill retain them: and he accordingly returned to England, where he ſoon after died in captivity. Much about this time David Bruce, on payment of 100 marks was reſtored to liberty.

Edward the Black Prince had obtained from his father all the French provinces in full ſove-

reignty. On his going to the aid of Peter the Cruel, as I have elſewhere mentioned, he had incurred very heavy expences. Theſe, Peter had engaged to pay, but not keeping his word, Edward laid ſuch taxes on his ſubjects, as induced them to revolt. In this they were joined by Charles king of France, and in a ſhort time, all that remained to the Engliſh on the continent was Bayonne, Bourdeaux and Calais. The Prince of Wales, who was before in a bad ſtate of health, did not long ſurvive theſe diſaſters, and Edward III. who latterly neglected public affairs, addicting himſelf entirely to a favourite miſtreſs, died ſoon after.

In the reign of Edward III. the Engliſh court was the moſt ſplendid in Europe; and the ladies were particularly attended to. Domeſtic tranquility was alſo in a great degree preſerved by the wars with France; and take it all together, England enjoyed more happineſs under him, than had been generally it's lot.

Richard II. the ſon of the Black Prince, was only eleven years old at his acceſſion; and his uncle, John of Ghaunt, duke of Lancaſter, was appointed regent. He increaſed the taxes already too great, and an inſurrection was the conſequenee of one, which he laid on every perſon of a certain age, and upwards.

A collector had uſed a young girl indecently in a diſpute whether ſhe came within the law, and her father in the height of his paſſion ſlew the offender. This produced a revolt, and a very large body of men, headed by a man of the name of Wat Tyler, then proceeded to London, where they made themſelves maſters of the tower, and ſeveral perſons of conſequence, who fell into their hands, were put to death. The young king who had nearly arrived at manhood, having no force able to ſubdue them, reſolved boldly to meet them, and reaſon with their leader. In the converſation that took place, Tyler behaving with inſolence, the Lord Mayor who had attended Richard, raſhly ſtruck him, and another perſon preſent diſpatched him with a ſword.

The enraged multitude inſtantly prepared for vengeance: when the king, with admirable preſence of mind, ſaved himſelf and thoſe who were with him, by putting himſelf at their head, at the ſame time declaring he would be their commander. He then enquired into their demands, and having promiſed to grant all they required, together with a free pardon for what had paſſed, they quietly diſperſed.

This commencement of Richard's reign promiſed well; but he almoſt inſtantly diſgraced himſelf, by having ſome of the ring leaders of the late inſurrection, ſeized and executed. In various other matters he proved himſelf a tyrant, and the infamous judges of that day, were wicked enough to declare him above all law. The nobles, however, had recourſe to arms, and obliged him to diſmiſs thoſe who had given him ſuch pernicious counſels. But he had ſo entirely alienated the affections of his people, that occaſion only was wanting to dethrone him, and it was not very long till a fit opportunity offered: A quarrel had ariſen between the Dukes of Norfolk and Hereford, which, ac-

cording to the rules of chivalry, they had agreed to decide by ſingle combat. But the king prevented it by baniſhing Norfolk for life, and Hereford for ten years; thus acting with the greateſt injuſtice to both.

On the death of the Duke of Lancaſter, the father of Hereford, Richard ſeized on all his poſſeſſions, at the ſame time making the ſon's baniſhment perpetual. Hereford juſtly exclaimed againſt this abominable conduct, and Richard having gone to Ireland, where ſome diſturbances had ariſen, the now Duke of Lancaſter landed in England, declaring he came to redreſs his own, and the people's wrongs. Many men of conſequence immediately joined him, the chief of whom were, the Earl of Northumberland, and his ſon Harry Percy, known by the name of Hotſpur. The Duke of York, to whom Richard had intruſted affairs during his abſence, and who was uncle both to the king and Lancaſter, was either unable, or unwilling to oppoſe him, and when Richard returned from Ireland, he was obliged to put himſelf into the hands of his enemy. Lancaſter was ſoon after

proclaimed king by the title of Henry IV. and his claim was confirmed by a parliament aſſembled for that purpoſe. But a formidable revolt took place in favour of Richard who was confined in the tower of London. It was however unſucceſsful, and it ended in the execution of ſeveral of its leaders, and in the murder of the unfortunate and ill conducted Richard.

Henry had expected, that the death of Richard would have ended the troubles of his reign. In this he was deceived, for the Scotch, the Welch under Owen Glendower, and a conſiderable body of Engliſh, under the Earl of Northumberland and Hotſpur, attempted to place Mortimer, who was of the houſe of York, and who claimed to be the true heir to the crown, upon the throne. Henry, however, defeated all their attempts, and both Hotſpur and his father periſhed in the field.

About the end of Edward III.'s reign, John Wickliff, who was educated at Oxford, had openly attacked the papal authority and the conduct of the clergy. His opinions had gained ground, and Henry being applied to, gratified

the church, whoſe influence he well knew, by cauſing a law to be enacted, puniſhing hereſy with death. Very ſoon after this William Sautre, a clergyman was burned for ſupporting the doctrines of Wickliffe, and he is the firſt that ſuffered in England for religious opinions.

The duke of Albany had about this time uſurped the government of Scotland. His nephew David who was entitled to the throne, was ſtarved in priſon. But James, the brother of David, ſaved himſelf on board a veſſel, bound to France. It fell into the hands of the Engliſh, and the young prince was detained a captive; receiving however an education, that prepared him for the crown, he afterwards received.

Henry V. ſucceeded his father Henry IV. in the year 1413. Never was a people more agreeably diſappointed in the character of a prince. He in a moment threw aſide the low pleaſures that had diſgraced his youth, together with the companions of them. The miniſters of his father, who expected an in-

ſtant removal, were retained. To Sir William Gaſcoigne, a Judge whom he had ſtruck on the bench, and who had for doing ſo, committed him to priſon, he paid a high and juſt encomium, and not only continued him in office, but marked him as a favourite. In ſhort, the hitherto debauched and diſſipated Henry manifeſted ſo complete a change, that he almoſt in a moment made himſelf beloved by every claſs of his ſubjects. But though Henry did not diſoblige them by the part he took in religious matters, you cannot read without deteſting that part of his conduct, that he countenanced the law againſt heretics. John Oldcaſtle, baron of Cobham, was tried and condemned for being of Wickliffe's opinion; and having endeavoured to ſave his life by a revolt he was hanged as a traitor, and his body was burned in purſuance of the ſentence againſt him as a heretic.

The diſpoſition of Henry chiefly led him to the purſuit of glory: and policy alſo induced him to lead his turbulent barons againſt a foreign enemy. He therefore invaded France,

to eſtabliſh his claim to that crown, the event of which you have read in another letter.

Henry VI. was only nine months old, when he became king both of France and England. What happened as to the former, I have elſewhere related. In England, his uncle the Duke of Glouceſter had been appointed regent. By him an alliance was formed, with James I. of Scotland who was ſtill a priſoner, but who now obtained his liberty. James during a ſhort reign kept his faith with the Engliſh, but in 1437, he was murdered by his kinſman the Earl of Athol.

During the minority of Henry there were great diſſenſions, and cabals, amongſt the nobles. The Earl of Suffolk was particularly violent againſt the regent, and when the king attained to manhood, he accompliſhed Glouceſter's ruin, by bringing about a marriage between Henry, and Margaret of Anjou, the daughter of Rene, the nominal king of Naples, &c. This the regent had oppoſed, from her having no fortune; and the queen threw all her influence into the ſcale of his enemies.

They alledged againſt him various crimes, which had no foundation, and the council, called to enquire into them, acquitted him. He was then accuſed before the parliament; but on the day he was to make his defence, he was found dead in the place of his confinement.

The queen and Suffolk, who had been created a duke, were univerſally ſuppoſed to have procured his murder. This not only rendered them, but alſo the king who was entirely governed by them, odious. The ill ſucceſs of the Britiſh arms in France, heightened the diſcontent; and the people readily liſtened to the pretenſions of another branch of the royal family. Richard, Duke of York, by his mother was deſcended from Clarence the ſecond ſon of Edward the third, whilſt Henry VI. was ſprung from the Duke of Lancaſter, who was the younger brother of Clarence. Therefore according to the Engliſh law of deſcents, York was certainly the rightful heir of the crown. The two parties were now diſtinguiſhed by wearing different colour-

ed roſes. White being that of the Yorkiſts, whilſt red ones were the badge of the Lancaſtrians.

York began by attacking the conduct of Suffolk, who was ſo conſcious of guilt, that he thought it beſt to get the king to baniſh him for five years. His enemies however had him ſeized after he had embarked, and he was inſtantly put to death. Much about this time, an inſurrection was headed by one John Cade. He entered London, put ſome noblemen to death, and demanded a redreſs of grievances. But it was ſoon ſuppreſſed, and Cade loſt his life.

The Duke of Somerſet, who ſucceeded Suffolk, was ſoon diſplaced, and impriſoned. A parliament that had been ſummoned then declared the king incapable of governing, at the ſame time appointing York, protector of the kingdom. The queen, and her party however again prevailed. A civil war followed, in which the king became the priſoner of York, after a victory obtained at St. Albans, on which the latter was again inveſted with all the pow-

ers of government. The queen's party was however ſtill formidable, and the conteſt was ſtill depending at the cloſe of this Æra.

EIGHTH LETTER.

THOUGH Gregory VII. was dead, the Emperor Henry IV. ſtill found the papal power too ſtrong for him, and even his Empreſs, with his ſon Conrade, were now numbered amongſt his enemies. Conrade did not long ſurvive this unnatural conduct, but Pope Paſchal II. prevailed on another ſon named Henry, to follow his example. Both the Henry's had taken the field, when a treaty, that was perfidious on the part of the ſon, put the father into the hands of his enemies. He was then ſolemnly depoſed by the Pope's Legates; and the archbiſhop of Mentz and Cologne, who attended, threw the old emperor to the ground, tearing from him the royal inſignia. Not content with this, they obliged him, in expreſs terms, to reſign the Empire to his unnatural ſon, and to aſk pardon of all he

might have offended. Having thus humbled himſelf, he beſought the Legates to take off his excommunication, but this was refuſed, under the pretence that the Pope alone was in this caſe competent. He was alſo kept in confinement, without being ſupplied with even the common neceſſaries of life. This treatment however raiſed him new friends, and making his eſcape, he found himſelf again at the head of a conſiderable force, when death put an end to a life, of peculiar misfortunes, toil and miſery.

This emperor had been almoſt his whole life engaged in war, having fought ſixty-two battles, in moſt of which he was ſucceſsful. Had he lived in different times, his reign would probably have been peaceful, proſperous and happy, as his diſpoſition was truly generous and humane. But unable to bear with patience the exorbitant and abominable pretenſions of the Papacy, he drew down all it's thunders on his head: and ſuch was the barbarous darkneſs of that age, that the Holy

See was able by the vileſt means to cruſh this unfortunate monarch.

The new emperor Henry V. muſt be already an object of your deteſtation. But you will read with freſh horror, that he had the corpſe of his father raiſed from the tomb, and thrown into a vault, where it lay unburied for the ſpace of five years: and this was juſtified by him and the Pope, under the allegation, that interment could not be allowed, as he had died excommunicated.

The reſpect of Henry V. for the papacy continued no longer, than till he had ſettled all matters with Hungary, Poland, and his powerful vaſſals. He then entered Italy, and poſſeſſing himſelf of Rome, he obliged Paſchal II. to reſtore him the right of inveſtiture, to acknowledge him king of Italy, and to crown him emperor. But Henry was no ſooner retired, than Paſchal reſcinded all he had done, at the ſame time excommunicating him, and raiſing up a competitor for the empire. This led to various conteſts, till at length Henry, with the advice of a diet, ap-

plied to the Pope to call a council to ſettle their differences. In conſequence of this 300 biſhops and 700 abbots aſſembled, who, in conjunction with Henry's ambaſſadors, thus adjuſted it. The chapters and other religious communities were in future to elect the biſhops and the heads of their reſpective orders, but where any fiefs thereby paſſed to eccleſiaſtics, the emperor was to grant the inveſtiture with the ſceptre, but not with the crozier and ring; and fealty to the emperor was to follow. In return for this conceſſion on the part of the church, it was underſtood that the emperors were no longer to interfere with the election of Popes. This healed his diſſenſions with Rome, but the end of his reign was diſturbed by ſeveral quarrels between him and his principal vaſſals.

On Henry's death without iſſue Lothair II. a prince of Saxony was raiſed to the empire. The croiſades, which commenced about this time, had one good effect, that of promoting the internal peace of Europe. Lothair took this opportunity of introducing the civil law

into Germany, a copy of Juſtinian's Code having ſome time before been diſcovered in Italy. And Lothair beſides being thus ſerviceable to his ſubjects, obtained a grant from Pope Innocent II. of the Uſufruct, of the counteſs Matilda's demeſne, to him and his children.

On Lothair's death the election fell on Conrade duke of Franconia. Henry the haughty duke of Bavaria however diſputed it, and his name being Guelphe, thoſe who joined him were known by that appellation, and from thenceforth it became in Italy a general name for all who took part againſt the emperors. On Henry's death, his brother took the ſame part, in which he was ſupported by Roger king of Sicily. The army oppoſed to them was commanded by Frederick duke of Suabia the emperor's brother, and he having been born at a place called Hieghibelin, his troops were called Ghibelins. For a long time afterwards, theſe names were given to the papal, and imperial parties in Italy. On the emperor's return from the croiſade in which you

have ſeen him engaged, his reign was diſturbed by ſome diſſenſions at home, but his recommendation of his nephew Frederick Barbaroſſa prevailed, and on his death he was elected by the title of Frederick I. but he afterwards acquired the truly honorable appellation of being the Father of his country.

The conteſt between the late emperor, Conrade III. and the duke of Bavaria, had ended in a way that did credit to all parties. The caſtle in which the duke was, together with ſome of his principal adherents, being ſurrounded, and reduced to extremity, ſurrendered at diſcretion. The ducheſs however ſolicited, and obtained leave, that ſhe and the other women that were in it ſhould take with them whatever they could carry. When the emperor beheld her, and the other females ſtaggering under the weight of their huſbands whom they had on their backs, he burſt into tears at this mark of conjugal affection: and an effectual end was put, to all enmity between the contending parties.

A diſpute having ariſen between the dukes of Bavaria and Saxony, it was referred to the new emperor Frederick I. He allotted Bavaria to the duke of Saxony, firſt detaching Auſtria from it, which he erected into a dukedom for the duke of Bavaria, and in return the new duke of Auſtria gave up to Frederick all his pretenſions to the duchies of Tuſcany and Spoletto in Italy, and to the iſland of Sardinia. Frederick alſo ſettled a diſpute as to the ſucceſſion to the throne of Denmark, in favour of Sueno, whom he crowned in Germany, as holding it as a fief of the empire. He then ſet out for Italy, but was inſtantly obliged to return by ſome diſſenſions that had ariſen. To adjuſt theſe, he aſſembled a diet, and during its' ſitting legates arrived from the pope. They were the bearers of a letter to him, aſſerting that popes were appointed by God to rule over kings, and threatening to transfer his crown to the Greek emperor if he perſiſted in ſome of his Italian claims. This being ſhewn by Frederick to the great men who had then met together, he found them equally diſguſted with its arrogance, and

he therefore reſolved to take the firſt opportunity of humbling the papacy.

Frederick began with endeavouring to reſtore peace and order to the empire. For this purpoſe he conſulted ſome of the ableſt civilians of Bologna, where Juſtiman's code, ſo lately found, was better underſtood, than any other place in Europe; and under their directions he rendered Germany happier, than it had been at any time ſince the days of Charlemagne. He now viſited Italy, but my account of it, and his ſubſequent tranſactions there, will fall in better elſewhere.

About the year 1164, Frederick laid the foundation of what was afterwards called the Hanſetowns, by giving Lubeck, Hamburgh, and ſome other places peculiar privileges. Theſe were denominated Imperial towns, and Lubeck had even a right to coin money. All theſe places were perfectly independent of the great vaſſals; and being governed internally by laws enacted by themſelves, they were ſoon diſtinguiſhed for wealth, freedom, and commerce.

Henry the Lion duke of Saxony, having acted in groſs violation of the laws of the empire, was declared in a diet to have forfeited his eſtates, and was put to the Ban. He endeavoured to avert the decree, but after a gallant defence, his dominions were ſeized on and divided. Thus reduced, he threw himſelf on the clemency of Frederick, who wiſhed, but found it impoſſible, to reſtore him. He was therefore forced to take ſhelter with his father-in-law, Henry II. of England. Frederick was, however, able to ſave for the duke of Saxony's children, the territories of Brunſwick and Lunenburgh, which had not been allotted to any particulat perſon. And the ſon of this unfortunate duke, and the princeſs of England, whom he married, were the anceſtors of the preſent Houſe of Brunſwick.

Among the great undertakings of Frederick may be reckoned his reduction of Poland, to a tributary kingdom. He likewiſe ſubdued ſome revolts in Bohemia, and was able to ward off the inſurrections fomented by the Pope. But he at length thought it prudent to court the pa-

pacy, and to gratify it, by undertaking a cruſade in which he loſt his life, by bathing in the Cydnus, a river remarkable for the coldneſs of it's waters. This happened in 1190, and his ſon being king of the Romans, of courſe ſucceeded him with the title of Henry VI. to which was afterwards added the Severe, an addition very deſcriptive of his character.

Henry, beſides the empire and his own hereditary dominions, was entitled to the throne of Naples and Sicily in right of his wife, who was the only child of William II. it's laſt king; but what relates to it belongs to another letter.

The moſt material events of this reign in Germany, were the putting down a revolt in Saxony, that had for it's object the reſtoration of Henry the Lion, and the eſtabliſhing the order of Teutonick knights.

They originated in the holy land out of the remnant of the army led by Frederick Barbaroſſa, and were partly clerical, and partly military. None under the rank of gentlemen were admiſſible, and their avowed object was the protection of pilgrims going to and from

Judea. Their oath bound them to defend the church, the clergy, the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the diſtreſſed. Whilſt the cruſades continued, they were chiefly employed in Paleſtine, but after they ceaſed, it became an order entirely military.

Frederick II. the ſon of Henry, who had been elected king of the Romans when in his cradle, was ſtill a minor when his father died. Otho, the ſon of Henry the Lion of Saxony, and who had now fully eſtabliſhed himſelf in that duchy, therefore became a competitor, with the ſanction of the then pope. To oppoſe him, the friends of Frederick had his uncle Philip made king of the Romans, and in that capacity he took the entire management of all public affairs. But on his being aſſaſſinated by the count palatine of Bavaria, for breaking a promiſe of marriage to his daughter, Otho IV. was acknowledged in Germany. Frederick, who had attained his full age, thereupon left Sicily and his Italian dominions. The ſee of Rome had now ceaſed to ſupport Otho,

and after a bloody civil war, Frederick's forces at length gave his competitor a dreadful overthrow at Bouvines, near Tournay, which he never recovered. Frederick was in Switzerland when the news of this victory reached him, and he ſecured the affections of that people, by a grant of ſeveral privileges. To Wm. V., Prince of Orange, he gave the kingdom of Arles, as a fief of the empire. And he alſo gratified the king of Denmark by yielding to him Walſtein and the cities of Lubeck and Hamburgh. By theſe means he was able to tranquilliſe Germany, and to reſtore that peace and order to which it had long been a ſtranger.

The dreadful ſtate in which this emperor had found it, may be collected from the proceedings at a diet that had been formerly held by him.—He there made his great nobles ſwear, that they would neither rob on the high way nor coin falſe money. But he did not attempt to aboliſh a privilege claimed and exerciſed by them and the biſhops and abbots—that of having the firſt night of the wives of their vaſſals; and the ſame irreligious, indelicate, and horrid

badge of ſlavery, at this period prevailed in many other parts of Europe.

I ſhall not here touch on Frederick's affairs in Italy, but the holy ſee now raiſed a competitor againſt him in Germany, in the perſon of the landgrave of Thuringia. He got the name of King of the Prieſts, being ſupported by the principal biſhops, and the Dominican and Cordelier friars. On his death the ſame party put the count of Holland in his place, but without ſucceſs. Beſides reſiſting theſe attempts, the emperor towards the cloſe of his life had to chaſtiſe a rebellious ſon named Henry, who afterwards died in confinement.

Though Frederick was with juſtice accuſed of a cruel diſpoſition, yet he had a ſtrong taſte for literature and ſuch of the arts as were then known. In Vienna, which he took from Auſtria, he founded a univerſity. Germany was not capable in its then diſtracted ſtate, of benefiting much by his exertions, but his kingdoms of Naples and Sicily were greatly improved.

On his death in 1251, his ſon Conrade IV. ſucceeded to the empite; but living only one or two years, and never having been fully poſſeſſed of the imperial power, no proviſion was made as to his ſucceſſor. The conſequence was a number ofcompetitors, and a continued ſcene of war for ſeveral years, during which Denmark, Holland, and Hungary threw off the homage formerly paid, as fiefs to the empire. The Hanſetowns alſo ſeiſed this opportunity of raiſing themſelves into conſequence. Upwards of eighty cities and towns, amongſt which were Lubeck, Cologne, Brunſwick, Dantzick, Mentz, Frankfort, Worms, and Spire, mutually guaranteed the rights and privileges of each. A paper currency was then eſtabliſhed between them. Trade increaſed with the utmoſt rapidity, and from the ſecurity they enjoyed, they in a little time became both rich and powerful.

Pope Gregory the X. now declared, that if the great lords of Germany did not immediately put an end to their civil wars, and chooſe a head, he would nominate one. This produced the election of Rodolph, count of Haps-

burgh, the firſt emperor of the Houſe of Auſtria. This prince added to the moſt undaunted courage a high degree of prudence. The ſtate in which he found Germany may be gathered from what happened in Thuringia alone. He deſtroyed there ſixty caſtles, which were held by banditti, and in the city of Erfurt ninety-nine highway men were hung in one day. By his great and wiſe exertions, peace and good order was in a ſhort time pretty generally reſtored.

Ottocarus, king of Bohemia, having ſeized on the duchy of Auſtria, and ſome other places to which he was not entitled, and refuſing to reſtore them, was declared a rebel by the emperor and diet. A war was the conſequence, in which Ottocarus was joined by the duke of Bavaria and ſome other German princes. At length Ottocarus was ſlain, and terms were agreed on, by which his ſon, Winceſlaus was permitted to keep Bohemia and Moravia as fiefs of the empire, and being a minor, he was committed to the care of the marquis of Brandenburgh. Auſtria was given to Albert, the eldeſt ſon of Rodolph, and it was at the ſame

time fixed, that whoever held it, ſhould have a ſeat in the college of German princes. Another of his ſons, who bore his own name, was put in poſſeſſion of Suabia. Rodolph after this arrangement paid particular attention to Auſtria, diminiſhing the taxes, whilſt he at the ſame time repaired and built many public edifices. He alſo courted and obtained the love of the nobles and clergy, by the privileges and dignities he conferred on them, and he laid the foundation of the greatneſs of that Houſe, which has deſcended from him.

Though Rodolph left two ſons, the next emperor was Adolphus of Naſſau, but miſconducting himſelf, he was depoſed in 1298.—Albert duke of Auſtria was then elected, ſoon after which Adolphus fell in battle. During the reigns of the two laſt emperors, the Jews in Germany had ſuffered ſevere perſecutions, in conſequence of charges made againſt them of the moſt abominable practices, but which do not appear to have been well founded. Numbers of theſe unfortunate people were put to deaths of torture, and many committed ſuicide,

in order to prevent the torments that were prepared for them.

Albert had ſome diſputes with the ſee of Rome, but the chief thing for which his reign is memorable, is the riſe of the Helvetic liberty. The Swiſs, though a fief of the empire, had amidſt their mountains preſerved a degree of equality and freedom, then unknown to any other part of the world. They paid rather a nominal, than real obedience to the heads of the Houſe of Auſtria. But Albert reſolved to eſtabliſh an abſolute authority over them. For this purpoſe he appointed governors whoſe intentions correſponded with his own, and one of them named Greſler or Geiſler, to ſhow his power had his hat placed on a pole, to which he commanded obeiſance to be paid, on pain of death. William Tell, a gallant Swiſs, who beheld with indignation this wanton inſtance of tyranny, refuſed compliance. Tell, who was remarkable for his ſkill with the bow and arrow, had then the alternative given him of ſplitting an apple placed on the head of his ſon at a certain diſtance, or being hanged. Thus

circumſtanced he took his chance, and ſucceeded without injuring his child, but having declared he would have ſhot the governor with another arrow, had he failed, he was doomed to perpetual impriſonment. From this, he, however, eſcaped, and Geiſler fell by his hands.

Three men, named Arnauld Melchtat, Werner Strauffacher, and Walter Furtz, now reſolved to reſcue the three cantons of Uri, Schwitz, and Underwald from ſlavery. They laid their plan ſo well as to ſeize the governors, and their principal dependants without ſhedding a drop of blood, and they allowed them to retire, on their ſwearing never to take arms againſt them. Albert immediately prepared to reduce them to obedience, but on his march he was aſſaſſinated by his nephew John, whom he had wronged of his patrimony.

The German electors were jealous of allowing the emperor to be choſen too frequently out of one family. They therefore elected Henry of Luxemburgh; and this prince's ſon John ſoon after obtained the kingdom of Bohemia, by marrying it's heireſs. The four laſt

emperors had entirely neglected Italy, but the new emperor Henry VII. determined to enforce his claims in that country. Theſe intentions were however fruſtrated by death: and it is generally believed he was poiſoned by a Dominican friar, who had adminiſtered the ſacrament to him. Much about this period the Teutonic knights purchaſed Pruſſia from the marquis of Brandenburgh, and they alſo poſſeſſed themſelves of Dantzick, and ſome other places. But they diſgraced themſelves, by putting to death, all who refuſed to embrace chriſtianity: for there were ſtill ſome idolaters in that wild part of Europe.

Lewis of Bavaria and Frederick the handſome duke of Auſtria, became competitors for the vacant empire. Lewis had the majority of votes, but a war enſued, which ended in the defeat and captivity of Frederick. He had before that been unſucceſsful againſt the three Swiſs Cantons, though he had 20,000 men, and they were only 1600 in number. Encouraged by this victory the latter entered into a perpetual league, to defend each other. In the

courſe of a few years all the other Cantons joined in it, and though, from time to time, not leſs than ſixty battles were fought between them, and the houſe of Auſtria, they fully eſtabliſhed the independance of their republic.

Lewis had ſeveral diſputes with the See of Rome, but he kept his own rights, and was able to compel the biſhop of Straſburgh to do him homage, in ſpight of the Pope's ſentence of excommunication. He was alſo able to prevail on all the princes of the empire whether eccleſiaſtical or ſecular, to come to a determination at a meeting held at Frankfort in 1338, that was highly advantageous to the imperial dignity. They declared that the Pope had no ſuperiority over an emperor, nor any right to approve or diſapprove of his election, which they determined to belong excluſively to the Electoral College. They alſo declared that all who maintained a contrary opinion were guilty of high treaſon. It was likewiſe ſettled at this meeting, that during every vacancy, the government devolved to the Count

Palatine of the Rhine, according to ancient cuſtom. In this reign the Jews experienced another dreadful maſſacre, from a German mob headed by one Armleder, whoſe pretence was, the revenging the crucifixion of Chriſt.

Lewis as duke of Bavaria had a war with the king of Bohemia. This was occaſioned by the emperor's ſon, the Margrave of Brandenburgh, claiming the countries of Tyrol and Carinthia in right of Margaret his wife, but who had been divorced from John the ſecond ſon of the king of Bohemia, on a charge of impotency though denied by him. The conteſted fact was however at length acknowledged, and her territories were relinquiſhed.

On Lewis's death in 1347, a new conteſt aroſe, as to his ſucceſſor. The Pope, and thoſe attached to him fixed on Charles of Luxemburgh, the ſon of John king of Bohemia. The oppoſite party firſt called on Edward the third of England, and on his declining it, they choſe Gunther count of Schwartzenberg, but he died ſoon after, and Charles was then generally acknowledged. In this reign another maſſacre

of the Jews happened, they being accuſed of poiſoning the ſprings, when in fact a plague was ravaging the country. Many of the great men were ſuppoſed to be at the bottom of this, on account of the debts they had contracted with the Iſraelites. But the emperor at length ſtopped their deſtruction, on receiving, as it is ſaid, a large ſum of money.

Charles as emperor was the liege lord of the Provinces of Arles, Provence, Dauphiny, Savoy, and Franche Compte. He was alſo king of Bohemia, and he had great claims on Italy. Thus powerful he was able to make a conſiderable ſtand againſt papal ambition. In this he was aided by the different Univerſities that had been founded in Europe, where men began to think a little for themſelves in matters of religion, as well as in literature. But Charles's reign is chiefly memorable for fixing the mode in future, of electing the emperors. This was accompliſhed in a diet aſſembled in 1356, and inſtead of what had been hitherto fluctuating and undetermined, the number of

electors, was confined to ſeven. Theſe were the archbiſhops of Mentz Treves, and Cologne. The duke of Saxony, the marquiſs of Brandenburgh, the count Palatine and the king of Bohemia. The archbiſhops were chancellors of the empire, Mentz carrying the Seals of Germany—Cologne of Italy—and Treves of Gaul. Saxony as arch-marſhal, regulated the places of the electors when aſſembled, and carried a ſilver peck, full of oats. On ſtate occaſions Brandenburgh preſented the emperor with water in a ewer and baſon of gold. The count Palatine ſerved up the victuals in plates of the ſame metal, and the duty annexed to the elector of Bohemia, was that of preſenting wine to the emperor, in a golden cup, he being the chief butler. There were thirty different articles of laws and regulations fixed on at this diet, and the whole was known by the name of the golden bull, from the ſeal to them being contained in a little box made of gold. Some cities and princes at firſt oppoſed it, as an abridgment of their rights, but they were

obliged to ſubmit, and it has been ſince juſtly conſidered as the great foundation of the preſent Germanic conſtitution.

About this period the Hanſeatic league was engaged in a war with the Danes; and as the emperor took no part, the former applied to the king of Norway and the duke of Mecklenburg; with whoſe aid, they received reparation for the injuries they had ſuſtained.

Charles IV. chiefly reſided at Prague the capital of Bohemia, his hereditary kingdom, which he highly improved; and his court was deemed the moſt ſplendid in Europe. He alſo founded a Univerſity there, being a great encourager of literature; and he gave the Bohemians, a fixed code of laws. But though thus favourable to his own particular ſubjects, he did not deſerve as well of the empire. He turned every thing in his power that related to it, into money; which was expended partly, as I have mentioned in Bohemia, and the reſt in bribing the electors, to make his ſon Winceſlaus king of the Romans. It was in Char-

les's reign that gun powder, artillery, and fire-arms, were invented, or at leaſt firſt introduced into Germany and Europe.

When Winceſlaus ſucceeded his father in 1378, what had been the weſtern empire, was greatly diſturbed by the exiſtence of two Popes, each having their partizans. In the wars that followed, the emperor conducted himſelf with ſo much imprudence, that great inſurrections took place in the empire. During theſe the Jews, as uſual, were in many places butchered and plundered. This indeed happened to them ſometimes in every country where they were diſperſed: but in none, ſo often, as in Germany.

Winceſlaus was at all times a tyrant in his nature, but being ſeized with a fit of madneſs, he now committed the moſt horrid actions. Among other things he had a cook roaſted alive, and the magiſtrates of Prague, without any kind of trial, were put to death, by the common executioner. His brother Sigiſmund, king of Hungary, thereupon put him into con-

finement; but he made his eſcape, and his underſtanding appearing to be reſtored, he was permitted to reaſſume the government. During this lucid interval he brought about a peace between the Teutonic knights, and Margaret the Semiramis of the North, by which the latter paid a ſum of money to the former, for the undiſturbed poſſeſſion of Gothland.

Winceſlaus having either a return of madneſs, or ſhewing ſymptoms of it, was ſolemnly depoſed by the electors at the end of the fourteenth century, and Frederic duke of Brunſwic and Lunenburgh, was elected; but he was ſoon after murdered by the count of Waldeck, and then Robert, the count Palatine, ſucceeded him. Winceſlaus oppoſed this, but without ſucceſs, and he was obliged to content himſelf with his kingdom of Bohemia.

It was not till the year 1405, that the houſe of Auſtria acknowledged the independance of the Swiſs; though ſome attempts were afterwards made to reduce them. In the reign of the emperor Robert, a bloody conteſt took

place, between the Teutonic knights, and Ladiſlaus king of Poland, who wreſted Poliſh Pruſſia from them. But this period was moſt remarkable, for the attack made on the papal power, by John Huſs, and his diſciple Jerome of Prague. They were ſupported by Winceſlaus and his queen, notwithſtanding all the thunders of Rome; and many members of the Univerſity at Prague had acceded to their doctrines.

On the death of Robert in 1410, Sigiſmund king of Hungary was elected. He found at his acceſſion three Popes, all claiming a divine appointment, and each of them having a number of followers. To ſettle this ſchiſm, a council was aſſembled by him at Conſtance, on the 1ſt day of November 1414. This was I believe the greateſt aſſembly ever held in Europe. More than 100 princes, claiming the right of ſovereignty in their reſpective territories, attended. There were beſides twenty-ſeven ambaſſadors from others—and counts, barons, cardinals, biſhops, and other high

prelates without number. Their proceedings will fall in better, when I come to the papal hiſtory, except what relates to Huſs and Jerome. Theſe two reformers had attended, under the ſolemn guarantee of Sigiſmund, notwithſtanding which they were condemned, by this council, for heretical opinions, and the emperor baſely ſuffered them to be executed. Bohemia had before this deſcended to Sigiſmund by the death of his brother Wenceſlaus; and there were a number of followers of Huſs in that kingdom. Indignant at the murder of their leader, they flew to arms, and though the Turks at the ſame time entered Hungary, the emperor thought it more neceſſary to go againſt his revolted ſubjects. They were headed by Ziſka, who though blind, obtained many victories, and gave Sigiſmund infinite trouble. Ziſka when dying of a diſeaſe that had ſeized him, ordered his ſkin to be uſed as a drum, in order to remind his followers of the victories they had obtained under him. He was ſucceeded by Procopius a prieſt, who was alſo for ſome time ſucceſsful: but

the Huſſites falling out amongſt themſelves were at length obliged to come to terms with Sigiſmund, who incorporated them in his army. They ſerved with great zeal againſt the Turks as had been agreed on; but no ſooner was that enemy repelled than Sigiſmund, regardleſs of his honor, renewed their perſecution.

In 1437, Sigiſmund died without any male heir, and his ſon-in-law, the duke of Auſtria by the title of Albert II. was raiſed to the empire. He alſo ſucceeded in right of his wife to the kingdoms of Bohemia and Hungary. And from this period, the dignity of emperor has continued in the houſe of Auſtria with a few exceptions, or rather conteſts. During the reign of this emperor which only laſted two years, the empire was divided into diſtricts, called circles.

Albert had no ſon living, but one was born after his death named Ladiſlaus. Ladiſlaus king of Poland taking advantage of this, attempted to poſſeſs himſelf of Hungary, but

the new emperor Frederick III. the couſin German of Albert II. ſucceſsfully oppoſed him, and a compromiſe took place, by which the Poliſh king was allowed the adminiſtration of affairs during the minority. In Bohemia the people appointed two perſons to exerciſe the government for the ſame period, one of whom was a Huſſite and the other a Catholic.

In 1442, the art of printing was invented in Germany, or at leaſt for the firſt time introduced into Europe. Some attempts were made by Frederick to bring the Swiſs again into ſubjection, but without ſucceſs; and he had ſeveral diſputes with others who were his ſubjects, but which were of no importance. Much about this period the king of Poland loſt his life in an engagement with the Turks, and the adminiſtration of Hungary then devolved to Hunniades a celebrated general. But he alſo proved unſucceſsful, and the young king Ladiſlaus being then of age, both the Hungarians and Bohemians demanded, that he ſhould reign over them. The emperor at firſt

endeavoured to evade this, from ſome deſigns of his own, but he found it neceſſary to comply, and the young Ladiſlaus was in poſſeſſion of all his rights, at the cloſe of my preſent Æra.

NINTH LETTER.

THE affairs of Italy naturally blend themſelves with the Papal hiſtory, and I ſhall only give you a brief account of its principal ſtates, in this letter.

At the cloſe of my laſt æra, Robert Guiſcard, duke of Apulia and Sicily, was ſucceeded by his ſon Roger, who now took the title of king. He was engaged in a war with the emperor Lotharius, and for a time was deprived of his Italian territories. But he afterwards regained them, and Pope Innocent II. on his acknowledging himſelf a vaſſal to the holy See, confirmed not only his title of king, but alſo his right to Sicily, the dukedom of Auſtria, and the principality of Capua: for which territories he was, however, to pay a ſmall tribute.

William I. his ſucceſſor, was engaged in a war with Pope Adrian IV. and his Holineſs be-

ing beſieged in Benevento, was glad to make terms, by which he either firſt granted, or confirmed to William and his ſucceſſors, all eccleſiaſtical power in Sicily. This was done by appointing him and them the perpetual legates of that iſland.

William II. added to his title of king of Sicily, that of Naples alſo, or king of the two Sicilies. On his death without iſſue, he left his dominions to Conſtantia his neareſt relation, and who was the legitimate heireſs of Roger, I. king of Sicily. She was married to the Weſtern emperor, Henry VI. who in her right laid claim to what William had bequeathed. But Tancred the natural brother of Conſtantia had made ſo formidable a party, that after an ineffectual attempt, Henry was obliged, for the preſent, to abandon the enterpriſe. On the death of Tancred he renewed it, and being aided by the Genoeſe fleet, he beſieged Tancred's queen and her infant ſon William, in Salerno. She was at length obliged to capitulate on the terms of her ſon's being ſuffered to keep the principality of Tarentum. But the infamous Henry no ſooner

got the young prince into his power than he caſtrated him, put out his eyes, and ſhut him up in a dungeon. He then impriſoned the mother of William, and threw his ſiſter into a convent.

The emperor having returned to Germany, the Sicilians and Neopolitans very ſoon revolted. This recalled Henry to Italy, where he was again ſucceſsful; but he behaved with ſo much cruelty, that Conſtantia took the part of her oppreſſed ſubjects, and obliged him to accede to the terms ſhe propoſed. Theſe, however, he did not long ſurvive, and it was ſuppoſed he died of poiſon, adminiſtered by the empreſs.

Frederick, Conſtantia's ſon by Henry, being an infant, the adminiſtration devolved on her. Taking advantage of this minority, the Pope endeavoured to get Conſtantia to renounce the legatine power over Sicily. She however evaded it, and at her death appointed his Holineſs Innocent III. the guardian of Frederick, ſo that no contention could ariſe on that ſubject till Frederick arrived at manhood. On the emperor Otho IV. afterwards attacking the territories of Frederick, Innocent reſigned his guar-

dianſhip, giving the young king, tho' only ſeventeen years old, the management of his Italian dominions; which he was not only able to defend, but as you have elſewhere ſeen, he raiſed himſelf to the imperial dignity.

Frederick married the daughter and heireſs of John de Brienne, titular king of Jeruſalem, which kingdom was intended for her dower; and the kings of Sicily have ever ſince taken that additional title. He had ſeveral wars in Italy in conſequence of his quarrels with the holy See; and his father-in-law, and even his own ſon Henry, were at the head of armies againſt him: but he proved ſucceſsful againſt both.

His conteſts with the holy See, I ſhall reſerve for my next letter; and I ſhall only obſerve here, that from the dread of poiſon or aſſaſſination, through papal influence, his guards were compoſed of Saracens He is, however, ſuppoſed to have been ſtrangled in 1250, by Manfred, or Mainfroy, one of his illegitimate children.

Conrade, the ſon of Frederick, ſucceeded him not only in the Italian dominions, but alſo in the empire; and he likewiſe was involved in diſputes with the See of Rome.

At the time of Conrade's death, his ſon and ſucceſſor, Conradine, was an infant: and Mainfroi, the natural brother of Conrade, who had been appointed regent, baſely ſeized the ſceptre. Two or three Popes, ſucceſſively then attempted to ſeize theſe territories for themſelves: but not proving ſucceſsful, Clement IV. thought it better to beſtow the crown of the two Sicilies, on certain conditions, to Charles of Anjou brother to Lewis king of France. That prince being ſupported by a powerful army, defeated and ſlew Mainfroy in the plains of Benevento. The young Conradine, with his uncle the duke of Auſtria, then took the field againſt the conqueror, but they alſo were defeated, and being made priſoners, to the eternal diſgrace of Charles, he had them tried, condemned, and executed as traitors.

The terms Charles had made with the holy See were, that he ſhould reſign all the peculiar

privileges former Popes had granted to the kings of the two Sicilies; and that he ſhould ſend annually to Rome a ſum of money, together with a white palfrey, by way of tribute. Charles was now a very powerful prince, for in addition to Naples and Sicily, his own hereditary dominions conſiſted of Provence, Languedock, and a part of Piedmont.

The tyranny, cruelty, inſolence, and debauchery of Charles and his French followers, had ſo provoked the Sicilians, that they reſolved to extirpate them out of that iſland. This was ſuppoſed to be encouraged by the Greek emperor, whom Charles had threatened to attack; and alſo by Peter, king of Arragon, who had married the daughter of Mainfroy. A plan was at length formed, under the direction of John di Procida, a Sicilian of ſome rank, for a general maſſacre of the French, on the evening of Eaſter day, 1282. It accordingly took place, without diſtinction of age or ſex; and it has been ſince known by the name of the Sicilian veſpers. Charles himſelf eſcaped from his not being then in Sicily.

Almoſt immediately after this ſlaughter, Peter of Arragon landed with a conſiderable force, and was every where received as their lawful ſovereign. Some conteſts followed between him and Charles of Anjou, who ſtill retained Naples: and James, the ſon of Peter, afterwards took Charles, the ſon and ſucceſſor of Charles of Anjou, priſoner, who was, however, reſtored to liberty, at the interceſſion of Edward, king of England. One of the articles was, his giving up all claim to Sicily, but Pope Nicholas abſolved him from an oath he had taken to that effect, at the ſame time crowning him king of that iſland, as well as of Apulia, or as I ſhall henceforth call it, of Naples.

James, on the death of his elder brother Alphonſus, king of Arragon, without iſſue, left the government of Sicily to his brother Frederick. At length a treaty took place between James, and Charles king of Naples, by which the Pope conſented to confirm James's right to Arragon, notwithſtanding a former Pope had granted it away, and the interdict was alſo to be taken off that kingdom. In re-

turn Sicily was to be reſtored to Charles: but when the Sicilians heard of this arrangement, they reſolved never to ſubmit to it. They then raiſed Frederick to their throne, which produced freſh hoſtilities, till at length a treaty was agreed on in the year 1302, by which Frederick was to marry Charles's ſiſter; each to give up what they had taken from the other; and Frederick to hold Sicily, till with the aid of the Pope he got Sardinia or ſome other kingdom, but at all events, on the death of Frederick, Sicily was to go to Charles and his ſucceſſors on their paying 100,000 ounces of gold to Frederick's heirs.

On the death of Charles in 1310, a diſpute as to the ſucceſſion aroſe between his ſon Robert, and Carobert his grandſon, who was king of Hungary, and who was the ſon of Charles Martel, the late king's eldeſt ſon. Through the influence of Pope Clement V. Robert, however, prevailed: and on his death he was ſucceeded by his grand-daughter Joan. She married her relation, Andrew, the brother of Lewis king of Hungary. He brought with him a

number of foreigners, and diſputes ſoon aroſe between them and the Neapolitans, Joan ſiding with the latter, and the king with the former.—This ended in the depoſition and death of Andrew; and Joan then gave her hand to the prince of Tarentum, the principal conſpirator. Lewis now reſolved to revenge his brother's murder, and on his entering Italy at the head of a powerful army, Joan with her new huſband fled to Avignon, where Pope Clement VI. then reſided. That city and territory belonged to her as counteſs of Provence. She therefore gratified the Pope by ſelling it to him, for a nominal large ſum of money, which was never paid: and he in return declared her innocent of the death of Andrew.

Lewis having executed a prince of the blood that had been concerned in the conſpiracy againſt his brother, retired from Italy; and Joan and her huſband then returned to Naples. She there buried the prince of Tarentum, and alſo outlived two others whom ſhe afterwards married. Having no iſſue living by any of them, ſhe now adopted Charles Durazzo, who was

deſcended from Charles of Anjou. At this time there was a conteſt for the Papacy between Urban VI. and Clement VII. Joan took part with the latter, but the ungrateful Durazzo, eager to poſſeſs the throne, ſided with the former, by whom he was crowned king of Naples. Soon after this he got Joan into his power, and at the deſire of Lewis, king of Hungary, ſhe was ſmothered between two mattreſſes, that being the death her huſband Andrew had ſuffered.

When Durazzo rebelled againſt Joan ſhe had declared Lewis Duke of Anjou her ſucceſſor. But his efforts proved ineffectual, and dying in conſequence of his fatigues in the field, Durazzo became fully eſtabliſhed. He was, however, afterwards aſſaſſinated in Hungary, where he had gone at the inſtigation of ſeveral of its nobles in purſuit of its vacant throne—Lewis having died without male iſſue.

Pope Urban VI. would, if he had had the power, have ſeized on Naples: but Ladiſlaus, the ſon of Durazzo was able to ſupport his claim. He had, however, a bloody conteſt

with Lewis, the ſon of the late duke of Anjou, before he fully eſtabliſhed his authority.

It is neceſſary here to look back at what had paſſed in Sicily. Notwithſtanding the treaty I have mentioned, Frederick was ſucceeded by his ſon Peter, who tranſmitted that crown to his ſon Lewis, who was ſucceeded by his brother Frederick II. The prince of Tarentum, the huſband of Joan had endeavoured to reduce the iſland, but on his death Joan made peace, on the terms of his paying her and her ſucceſſors annually, the ſum of 15,000 ducats, and furniſhing ten gallies, and 100 men well armed, to be at her diſpoſal. Pope Gregory then declared Sicily a kingdom, by the name of Trinacria; but he at the ſame time took care to make Frederick give up its exemption from the Papal power.

In the year 1411, Lewis of Anjou, with the aid of Pope John XXIII. made a more ſucceſsful attack upon Naples, than he had formerly done. He gained a great victory over Ladiſlaus, numbers of the Neapolitan nobility falling in battle, and ſtill more being taken priſon-

ers. But Ladiſlaus did not ſink under his misfortunes, and making head againſt his competitor, he for a ſhort time brought the Pope to terms. He, however, ſoon after had a new quarrel with his holineſs, and making himſelf maſter of Rome, John was forced to take ſhelter in Florence.

In 1414, Ladiſlaus was ſucceeded by his ſiſter Joan II. She married James count de la Marche, of the Houſe of Bourbon: but becoming infamous for her debaucheries, that prince, by means of a number of Frenchmen, who had followed him to Naples, deprived her of liberty. This ſoon produced a Neapolitan party in her favour, who were not only able to releaſe her, but to baniſh the French, and impriſon the count de la Marche. He was, however, afterwards liberated, at the interceſſion of the Pope, and abandoning his pretenſions to royalty, he then embraced a monaſtic life.

In this revolution a man of the loweſt rank in life, named Jacomuzio, had ſo particularly diſtinguiſhed himſelf, as to highly ingratiate himſelf with Joan: and making him take the

name of Sforza, ſhe appointed him conſtable of Naples, and ſtandard bearer to the church. Sforza, however, afterwards revolted, when her affairs were very critically ſituated, Lewis the grandſon of that duke of Anjou, whom Joan I. had adopted, having invaded her kingdom. This conduct in Sforza, was owing to the haughtineſs of Caraccioli, the queen's then favourite paramour and prime miniſter, and the latter now prevailed on her to call to her aid Alphonſo king of Arragon, by promiſing him the ſucceſſion. He accordingly came, and reſcued her from her preſent danger; but he acted in ſuch a manner, as to diſguſt both Joan and the chief Neapolitans. She therefore made up her quarrel with Sforza, and agreed to appoint Lewis her ſucceſſor. This produced a conteſt between Joan and Alphonſo, which ended in the latter's being obliged to return to Spain. Lewis, however, did not live to enjoy his good fortune, and on his death, Joan appointed his brother Rene: who after her death, had the ſingular lot to be ſtiled king of Naples, Sicily, Jeruſalem, Arragon, Valentia, Majorca,

and duke of Lorraine and Bar, without having either land or revenue in any one of them.

Alphonſo having renewed his pretenſions to Naples, he at length prevailed; and obtaining from Pope Eugene IV. the inveſtiture of that kingdom, he alſo prevailed on his Holineſs to grant the ſucceſſion to his natural ſon Ferdinand, if he ſhould die without lawful iſſue, and in that caſe the Pope likewiſe agreed, that Ferdinand ſhould be legitimatiſed. Alphonſo continued in poſſeſſion of Naples till after my preſent æra: and Sicily had alſo acknowledged him for ſome time previous to the year 1453; the other branch of his family having become extinct in that iſland.

Venice became during this æra the firſt trading city in the world, and you have ſeen her taking a very conſpicuous part amonſt the cruſaders. In the affairs of Italy, ſhe alſo became a very powerful ſtate. Having declared in favour of Pope Alexander III. againſt the emperor Frederick, and their fleet proving victorious, this Pope introduced the ceremony of the Doge wedding the Adriatic They ſailed out into it

together, accompanied by the ſenate, and threw a ring into it, in token of gratitude; which afterwards became an annual ceremony. Before the end of this æra, Venice had added Vicenza, Padua, Verona, Ravenna, Bergamo, Breſcia, and Cremona to her territories.

The next ſtate in Italy was Genoa, which nearly rivalled Venice in trade, and ſhips of war. It had been ſubjected for a time to France, but in the reign of the French monarch, Charles VI. it threw off the yoke. Piſa was alſo a very flouriſhing republic—and ſo was Florence; and the latter took the lead of the world, under the patronage of the Houſe of Medicis, in the revival of literature and the fine arts.

In the beginning of the fifteenth century, John de Medicis laid the foundation of his family's greatneſs in Florence. He died high in reputation as well as fortune, and his ſon Coſmo got poſſeſſion of the latter. At firſt his politics were not pleaſing to his fellow citizens, and they baniſhed him. He was, however, ſoon reſtored, and became ſo popular, as, in fact, to

direct the republic. Succeſs attended all his enterpriſes, and having recovered every place the Florentines had loſt, he dictated peace to Italy.

Coſmo owed his influence to his humble and pleaſing manners, added to a wealth that was enormous, and which he was every day encreaſing by commerce, notwithſtanding his vaſt and conſtant expenditures. He encouraged all the arts, and under his influence, architecture, painting, and ſculpture, which had been but lately re-introduced into Italy, revived. He built a palace for himſelf, which he enriched with ſome of the fineſt remains of antiquity; every valuable vaſe, ſtatue, buſt, gem, medal, and whatever was curious, being purchaſed by him, and brought to adorn his native city He was courted by all the Italian princes, and whatever ſide he joined was almoſt certain of being victorious. His death did not happen till after the period I am now treating of; but when it did, his country gave him the title of Father of his country, and engraved it on his tomb.

In Lombardy and Milan the Viſconti's were for the greateſt part of this æra extremely powerful, but towards the cloſe of it, Francis Sforza, the baſtard ſon of Sforza, who diſtinguiſhed himſelf under Joan II. queen of Naples, obtained that dukedom, having married the only child of Philip, the preceding duke, who died in 1447.

The other chief ſtates of Italy were, Lucca and Piſtoa, where Caſtracania had made himſelf abſolute through the moſt bloody and deteſtable means, and has ſince been celebrated by Machiavel, an Italian hiſtorian, as a model for ſucceſsful villany. Ferrara and Modena belonged to the houſe of Eſté. Mantua and Ferrara were alſo cities of importance, with conſiderable territories, but as what elſe relates to Italy and it's iſlands will fall in with my account of Rome and the Popes, I ſhall here conclude this letter.

TENTH LETTER.

GREGORY VII. was ſucceeded by Victor III. owing to the influence of the counteſs Matilda, and the Norman princes, and on his death, which happened ſoon after, the ſame intereſt got Urban II. raiſed to that dignity. On the other hand, the emperor ſupported Clement III. This drew down the utmoſt fury of Urban, who excommunicated Henry, Clement, and all their adherents: and in order to ſtrengthen himſelf, he inveſted Roger the ſon of Robert Guiſcard, with the dukedom of Apulia and Calabria, on that prince's taking the oath of allegiance to the Holy See.

Urban's pontificate was diſtinguiſhed by the firſt croiſade taking place, under his direction. Lent, and the ſprinkling the head with aſhes, on the Wedneſday it commenced, had their origin from him. He alſo was the firſt who

forbade marriages during certain times in the year, and he inſtituted the order of Carthuſian monks. The deplorable ſtate of religion at this period cannot be better exemplified, than by ſome expreſſions of this pontiff—It is execrable, ſays he, that holy hands appointed to perform what was never granted to any Angel, to create God the Creator, and offer him to God his Father for the ſalvation of mankind, ſhould be reduced to the humiliating baſeneſs of ſlaviſhly mingling with profane hands; which beſides being ſoiled with rapine and bloodſhed, are day and night employed in impure offices and obſcene contacts. His object was to prevent the clergy who got fiefs, doing homage to laymen; which ceremony required the vaſſal to hold his hands between thoſe of the Lord from whom he held the lands.

On Urban's death the enemies of the emperor placed Paſchal II. in the chair of St. Peter: and Conrad Henry's eldeſt ſon, whom Urban had made rebel againſt his father, being dead, Paſchal prevailed on Henry another ſon, to follow his horrid example, as I have

elſewhere had occaſion to mention. But when the latter became emperor, he reſiſted Paſchal's claim to confer the lay inveſtiture. The Pope being obſtinate, as Henry I. of England had ſubmitted to this claim, the emperor ſeized his perſon, and the City of Rome. To obtain his liberty Paſchal then ſwore to every thing demanded, but no ſooner was Henry returned to Germany, than he retracted all he had done: and in this he was ſanctioned by the previous reſolutions of ſeveral councils, aſſembled in different parts, by the Cardinals. Beſides this cauſe of quarrel, a new one aroſe on the death of the counteſs Matilda, who bequeathed all her eſtates to the Holy See. The emperor had two claims to them, the one as Lord Paramount, ſhe having died without iſſue; and the other as her neareſt relation. He therefore re-entered Italy with a conſiderable army, and Paſchal, flying from Rome, did not long ſurvive it.

Two Popes again appeared. Gregory VIII. ſupported by the emperor, and Gelaſius II. by the oppoſite party; and on his dying in

France where he had retired, Calixtus II. became his ſucceſſor. The latter with the aid of the Norman princes got Gregory into his power, who died in captivity, ſoon after which Henry and Calixtus agreed to leave their differences to a council aſſembled for the purpoſe: the reſult of which you are already acquainted with.

Honorius II. who was the next Pope, took part with the then emperor Lotharius, excommunicating all who oppoſed him. He lived only a few years, and a new conteſt between the contending parties aroſe, Innocent II. being ſupported by Lotharius, and Anacletus II. by the Norman princes. This produced a war with Roger duke of Apulia, who had lately conquered Sicily, and who had aſſumed the title of it's king. The emperor was ſo ſucceſsful, that Anacletus is ſaid to have died of grief; on which Innocent was fully acknowledged. On his death in 1143, Celeſtinus II. was choſen who lived about a year, and then Lucius II. filled the papal chair.

At this period a number of cities had eſta-

bliſhed republics or Ariſtocratic forms of government, amongſt which were Genoa and Venice. Other cities and territories were governed by petty princes. Some were attached to the Popes, others to the emperors, and frequently the cities were divided by the two factions. The conſequence was, that there were perpetual wars amongſt them, and not only open hoſtilities, but frequent poiſonings and aſſaſſinations, ſo that nothing could be more horrid, than the diſtractions of Italy. Under the pontificate of Lucius, the Romans attempted a republic, electing a Senate and an annual magiſtrate ſtiled Patrician, and this Pope loſt his life in conſequence of his oppoſing them. Eugenius III. who ſucceeded Lucius, was more ſucceſsful, and the next Pope Anaſtaſius IV. living only about a year, Adrian IV. was elected. He put an end to the ſtruggle, by defeating Arnold of Breſcia, who had been the great popular leader, and who was afterwards taken and put to death. Adrian was not ſo fortunate in a conteſt with William I. who was at this time duke of

Apulia and king of Sicily, and being beſieged in Benevento, he complied with all his demands.

In this pontificate the emperor Frederic Barbaroſſa viſited Rome, and it was with great repugnance that he yielded to the uſual ceremony. He however at length complied, and proſtrated himſelf to Adrian, kiſſed his feet, held his ſtirrup, and led his white horſe by the bridle. This Pope was the only Engliſhman, that ever filled the papal chair, and being of the very meaneſt extraction, it probably made the emperor peculiarly reluctant: and when he afterwards heard that his holineſs had boaſted, of his having conferred the crown on him as his vaſſal, he obliged Adrian to retract his aſſertions. He alſo forced him to take down a picture of the emperor Lotharius, as it repreſented that prince in the act of acknowledging his being a vaſſal to a former Pope.

On Adrian's death two Popes again appeared; Alexander III. ſupported by the Guelphs, at the head of whom was William king

of Sicily; and Victor IV. elected by the Ghibelines. The different chriſtian ſtates were alſo divided, as to which they acknowledged. The ſame differences continued under Paſchal III. and Calixtus III. who ſucceeded Victor, and were ſupported by the ſame party. All the thunders of the church were iſſued on both ſides, and the conſequent wars in Italy exceeded their uſual barbarity. At length the intrigues of Alexander prevailed, and through the mediation of Venice an accommodation took place in 1177. Frederic in the preſence of a number of cardinals, princes and great lords, aſſembled in that city for the purpoſe, acknowledged Alexander lawful Pope, going through the uſual humiliating ceremony of kiſſing his feet &c. and promiſing to reſtore all that belonged to the Holy See. He likewiſe made a truce for ſixty years with the Italian cities and ſtates, that had been againſt him. Calixtus as had previouſly been agreed on at the ſame time reſigned his pretenſions, and Alexander was every where acknowledged.

Alexander now paſſed a decree that no future election of a Pope ſhould be valid, unleſs two thirds of the aſſembled cardinals agreed. He alſo recognized the papal rights of canonizing the dead, and of creating kings, exerciſing the firſt in the caſe of Thomas a Becket the Engliſh archbiſhop; and the latter in the perſon of Alphonſo, whom he made king of Portugal.

At Alexander's death in 1181, Rome was ſo ſeditious that the next Popes Lucius II. and Urban III. thought proper to reſide elſewhere. Gregory III. who was next elected, almoſt immediately died, and then Clement III. who was raiſed to the papal chair in 1187, re-eſtabliſhed the authority of the Holy See at Rome. His ſucceſſor Celeſtine III. gave a ſpecimen of his power by kicking the crown off the emperor Henry the VI. head, immediately after he had placed it there; and that prince did not think proper to make any remonſtrance.

Celeſtine whoſe pontificate was chiefly memorable, by his excommunicating the emperor for impriſoning Richard I. of England on his

return from Judea; and Alphonſo X. one of the Spaniſh kings, on account of a prohibited marriage; was ſucceeded in the papal chair by Innocent III. The latter took part againſt Frederick the ſon of the emperor Henry VI. and who had been elected king of the Romans: and he crowned Otho IV. on the expreſs condition that he ſhould reſign all claim to the territories that had belonged to the counteſs Matilda. But Otho did not adhere to the terms he had agreed to, and it ended in the Pope's excommunicating him, and joining the young Frederick as has fallen in elſewhere.

Few of the Popes carried a higher hand than Innocent. He continued the excommunication of Alphonſo X. king of Galicia and Leon, in Spain; and for a ſimilar offence, he inflicted the ſame puniſhment on Philip king of France. He likewiſe excommunicated Raymond count of Tolouſe, for not perſecuting his ſubjects the Albigenſes who had been declared heretics; at the ſame time transferring his territories to Simon count of Montfort. And Peter king of Arragon and John king of England were

brought to acknowledge that they held their kingdoms in vaſſalage under the holy ſee. His pontificate was alſo memorable for tranſubſtantion and Auricular confeſſion being made articles of faith.

Before John, king of England, had thus humbled himſelf to the Pope, beſides his having been excommunicated and depoſed, his kingdom was laid under an interdict. The latter was the moſt powerful weapon in the hands of the papacy. The moment it was pronounced, the clergy ceaſed all religious functions. The altars were ſtripped of their ornaments—the bells and all ſacred utenſils were laid on the ground—maſs was only celebrated by the clergy for themſelves, the doors being ſhut on the laity—the dead were not allowed interment in conſecrated ground, and no funeral rite was performed—the uſe of meat was forbid, as in lent, and all amuſements were prohibited; and the only ſacred ceremonies that were permitted was the baptiſm of infants, and the communion to the dying.

Honorius III. ſucceeded Innocent, and was ſometimes the friend, and at others the

enemy of the emperor Frederick the II. Towards the close of this pontificate Frederick gratified the Pope by issuing severe edicts against heresy, which laid the foundation of the Inquisition; and he also, at Honorius's instance, married the daughter of John de Brienne, titular king of Jerusalem, which kingdom was intended for her dower; and the kings of Sicily have ever since taken that additional, but empty title.

Frederick was extremely anxious to regain the imperial dominion over Italy; and Gregory IX. who succeeded Honorius in 1227, being equally solicitous to have it in the holy see, the animosities between the Guelphs and Gibelines became more deadly than ever. Gregory now called loudly on the emperor to go on a crusade he had vowed to his predecessor, and to enforce it, he at length excommunicated him. This had such an effect on many of his subjects, that he felt it prudent to comply: but his absence was very short; and on his return from the holy land he found his father-in-law,

at the inſtigation of Gregory, in arms againſt him. Frederick, by his activity, was able to bid defiance to all his enemies, and a peace of ſhort duration took place. Gregory, however, found means to renew the war, promiſing eternal ſalvation to thoſe who ſhould dethrone the emperor, and at his inſtigation Henry, the ſon of Frederick, rebelled againſt him. The latter was, however, ſoon after taken priſoner.

On Gregory's death in 1241, the election of a new Pope chiefly belonged to cardinals that were captives to the emperor; they, therefore, agreed to Celeſtine IV. the friend of Frederick, but he lived only a few days, and the cardinals then declared they would make no new election whilſt in confinement. This they perſiſted in for 19 months, and the emperor at length found it neceſſary to reſtore them to liberty, when they fixed on Innocent IV.

This Pope for ſome time kept on tolerable terms with Frederick, till he found an opportunity of retiring to Lyons, where he called a council, and with its approbation, he excommunicated and depoſed him. You have ſeen in

my account of Germany the competitors that were raiſed on that occaſion, and the reſult of the war in that quarter. In Italy freſh conteſts alſo aroſe, which continued till the death of this emperor.

Notwithſtanding the continual wars in which Frederick was involved, Italy owed a good deal to him, many public edifices being raiſed during his reign. He was alſo a friend to literature, and amongſt other encouragements, he founded the Univerſity of Naples.

The Pope now returned to Italy, and Conrade, Frederick's ſon and ſucceſſor, both in the kingdom of the two Sicilies and the empire, refuſing to give up his hereditary dominions, was excommunicated. This demand was made by Innocent on the ground that his father had forfeited them by his rebellion againſt the holy ſee. But Conrade bade him defiance; and none of the princes to whom he offered that prince's Italian dominions chooſing to accept them, all his efforts were ineffectual. He was the firſt who introduced red hats as a diſtinc-

tion for the cardinals, and contrary to the ordinance of Gregory VII. he permitted the Sclavonians to have the public worſhip performed in their own language.

Alexander IV. was the next pontiff, and Conrade dying about this time, he made an ineffectual attempt to ſeize Naples and Sicily in the confuſion that followed. Nothing material happened in the pontificate of his ſucceſſor Urban IV. but in that of Clement IV. who next followed, you have ſeen Charles of Anjou, under his auſpices, uſurping the crown of the two Sicilies.

Gregory X. who ſucceeded Clement, was peculiarly zealous in forwarding the cruſades; and for that purpoſe he endeavoured, with conſiderable ſucceſs, to reſtore tranquillity in Chriſtendom. At a Council held at Lyons, the diſſenſions between the Greek and Latin churches were alſo for a ſhort time healed. And he prevailed on the emperor Rodulph, before he crowned him, to cede the counteſs Matilda's lands, and alſo to confirm the grants of territory made by former emperors. This was

in fact nothing to Rodulph, as he only relinquished nominal claims, and nominal homage, that prince having then neither army nor influence in Italy. The regulation of the cardinals meeting hereafter in conclave, on any vacancy taking place in the papacy, was settled in this pontificate.

The three next Popes Innocent V. Hadrian V. and John XXI. had very short reigns, and nothing remarkable, except that the last was killed by the roof of his house falling in. This was at Viterbo, where the Popes had for some time resided, on account of the anarchy that prevailed in Rome.

On this vacancy no more than eight cardinals assembled in conclave; and though locked up according to rules that had been established, till they should agree, it was 6 months before Nicholas III. was chosen. He was succeeded by Martin IV. who excommunicated Peter, king of Arragon, for taking possession of Sicily; as did also the following Pope Honorius IV. Nicholas IV. and Clement V. next filled the papal chair. With the latter cardinal Cajetan was a

high favourite: and he not only got the Pope to enact, that whoever chose it might abdicate the See of Rome; but he likewise prevailed on him to put it in practice, thereby making way for his own succession, by the title of Boniface VIII.

Boniface began with the most avowed purpose of ruling over all kings that acknowledged the See of Rome. He asserted his right to wrest the sceptre from such as disobeyed him, and he made a violent attack on Philip the Fair, king of France, who had dared to do so. Philip, however, far from submitting, seized the Pope, at the same time accusing him on oath of various crimes, and calling a council to depose him. Boniface did not live till it assembled, and Benedict XI. being elected chiefly through the French interest, the proceedings against Philip were revoked, and some territories which Boniface had taken from the Colonna family, were restored. Boniface was the first Pope who introduced the celebration of a Jubillee. It was held in the year 1300, and attending it being deemed peculiarly holy, it

brought a vaſt concourſe of people to Rome. He was alſo the firſt who wore a double crown.

On the death of Benedict, who was poiſoned on account of his lenient meaſures, Clement V. through the intereſt of Philip, was raiſed to the Papal chair. He fixed his reſidence at Avignon, which belonged to Robert, the then king of Naples. To the French monarch, Clement was all complaiſance, but he obliged the Venetians to take off an excommunication, at the expence of 100,000 florins of gold: and he openly avowed that the emperor Henry VII. who began to interfere with Italy, was the vaſſal of the holy See.

From the time of Frederick II. the emperors had ceaſed to intermeddle with the affairs of Italy, yet the wars between the factions known by the name of Guelphs and Gibellines, continued to rage, though not even fomented by the Popes, and at the acceſſion of Henry VII. almoſt every city of the inferior ſtates had civil war within itſelf. As to the principal territories, Sicily was at peace under the houſe of

Arragon. The crown of Naples was diſputed by Carobert, king of Hungary, but it was in the poſſeſſion of his uncle Robert. Ferrara and it's territory now belonged to the houſe of Eſte, which had overthrown the republican form of government. Venice had peace at home, but was aggrandizing herſelf at the expence of her neighbours. The Florentines and Genoeſe were at war with Piſa: and Rome and its poſſeſſions were torn by three great factions, two of them headed by the houſes of Colonna and Urſini, and the third by the Roman Barons.

The emperor, unawed by the Pope's aſſertions, now entered Italy, and with the aid of the Colonna family, then extremely powerful in the territories of the church; he made himſelf maſter of Lombardy and Rome, being crowned in the latter by three cardinals. He now iſſued a decree, demanding every city and ſtate of Italy to pay certain tributes to him, and to acknowledge themſelves, holding under the Imperial Power: and being openly refuſed by the king of Naples, he was preparing to enforce it by arms, when he died in 1313.

Clement expired before him, and after ſome commotions, the French intereſt again prevailing in the Conclave, John the XXII. was elected. At this period, the ſucceſſion to the empire was conteſted between Lewis of Bavaria, and Frederick of Auſtria. The Pope, therefore, aſſumed the ſupreme authority in Italy, declaring Robert king of Naples, and Philip de Valois, vicars over that country. But Lewis having eſtabliſhed himſelf in the empire, appointed Viſconti, Duke of Milan, to govern Italy as his lieutenant. On this, John excommunicated them both, declaring the election of Lewis to the empire void, unleſs confirmed by the holy ſee. Lewis now inforced his authority, by marching to Rome, where he ſummoned the Pope, who reſided at Avignon, to attend: and on his failing to do ſo, he aſſembled a council and depoſed him, at the ſame time procuring the election of Nicholas V.

A number of the ſmall Italian republics had by this time changed their form of government, and were under the dominion of particular families. The moſt conſpicuous of theſe, were

the viſconti at Milan.—The Donati at Florence. The Scalagers at Verona, and the Bonacorſi at Mantua—all of whom were ſupported by the emperors. The Popes, of courſe, had ſided with the republics, pretending to be the friends of freedom: and the Guelphs and Gibelines continued to annoy each other with undiminiſhed acrimony. Yet, notwithſtanding ſuch complicated deſolation, literature and the arts were reviving in Italy. This was owing to the great intercourſe with Conſtantinople and Aſia, during the cruſades: the ſhips belonging to the Italian ports being almoſt the only ones in Europe, fit for ſo long a navigation.

Though Lewis had thus depoſed John, the intrigues of the court of France not only ſupported him, but in a ſhort time ſo turned the tables on the emperor, that he was forced to abandon Italy. His Pope Nicholas was then led a priſoner to Avignon, with a rope about his neck, but imploring forgiveneſs of John, he was ſuffered to end his days in confinement. Pardons for mortal ſins, and diſpenſations in certain caſes, had been a conſiderable time in

uſe, but John is ſaid to have been the firſt who ſold them; and he, who had been originally the ſon of a cobler, by that and other means, died immenſely rich.

During this pontificate, Walter Lollard, the founder of a ſect of that name, was burned as a heretick, at Cologne. in Germany.

Under Benedict XII. who ſucceeded John, the imperial power was very low in Italy, and the principal families, who had before relied on it, now felt it neceſſary to court the papacy. Scalager, who wae doge of Verona, paid him 5000 florins for the vicariate of the territories of it and Vicenza. Gonzago purchaſed that of Mantua and Reggio. The houſe of Eſte did the ſame, as to Ferrara and Modena. And Lucino, duke of Milan, gave 50,000 florins of gold, beſides 10,000, he was obliged to pay annually, for the vicariate of the reſt of Italy.

Clement VI. who was the next Pope, reſided at Avignon, as ſeveral of his immediate predeceſſors had done before him. On his obtaining a grant of it, and a neighbouring diſtrict, for the holy ſee, from Joan, queen of Naples,

as I have before mentioned, the people of Rome conſidered it as a total dereliction of their city. Nicholas Rienzi, called Cola, taking advantage of this opinion, got them to declare him Tribune. As ſuch he aſſumed the adminiſtration, ſtyling himſelf the Severe, and Clement, deliverer of Rome—the zealous defender of Italy—and the lover of Mankind. He then proceeded to declare, that all the people of Italy were free, at the ſame time admitting them to the rights of Roman citizens. But this wild attempt drew down the vengeance of the patrician families, and ended in his aſſaſſination.

Rome, by the abſence of the Popes, had at once become diſorderly and wretched, and her manufactures were transferred to Genoa, Piſa, Florence, and Venice. The inhabitants of that city, therefore, ſolicited Clement to return, but he did not think proper to comply. He, however, ordered a jubilee, in 1350, which brought a great deal of money to Rome: for this ſuppoſed vicegerent of God, had declared that all who attended it, ſhould be abſolved from

their ſins: the conſequence of which was, that 200,000 ſtrangers viſited that metropolis. This Pope renewed all the bulls that had been iſſued againſt the emperor Lewis, but a diet held in Germany ſupported that prince againſt the papacy. Clement, however, by his intrigues, got Charles of Luxemburgh made king of the Romans, who, on Lewis's death, ſucceeded to the empire: but a difference ſoon aroſe between Charles and the Pope, which the death of Clement prevented having any conſequences.

The cardinals, who now aſſembled in conclave, bound themſelve by an oath to obſerve a capitulation that took from the papacy, and added to the wealth and power of their order. Innocent VI. who was one of them, was then elected: and he, no ſooner felt himſelf firm in his chair, than he diſannulled all he had ſworn. He had ſome diſputes both with France and the emperor, the latter of whom he crowned on the expreſs ſtipulation that he ſhould ſtay but one night in Rome, and then leave Italy, never to return to it.

Urban V. the next Pope, was the firſt who put on the triple crown. He viſited Rome, but did not ſettle there, dying at Avignon in 1370, when Gregory XI. was elected. He alſo viſited Rome, but without any intention of making it his reſidence. Death, however, overtook him before he could quit it, and the cardinals who had attended him, were prevailed upon by the Romans, to chooſe Urban VI. who was an Italian. Thoſe who had thus elected him, and who were moſtly French, however, ſoon repented of their choice, and retiring from Rome, which Urban had made the ſeat of his government, they depoſed him, and raiſed Clement VII. to the chair of St. Peter, who ſeated himſelf at Avignon. This ſchiſm divided all Chriſtendom. Germany, England, Hungary, Bohemia, Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Pruſſia, Norway, Holland, and the greateſt part of Italy, declared for Urban. Whilſt France, Spain, Naples, Scotland, Loraine, Savoy, and the remainder of Italy, avowed themſelves the frieuds of Clement. As to the Popes themſelves, both were extremely worthleſs, and they from time

to time thundered out excommunications againſt each other, and their followers.

On the death of Urban, in 1389, who was ſuppoſed to be poiſoned; the cardinals of his party elected Boniface IX. and four or five years afterwards, Clement was ſucceeded at Avignon, by Benedict XIII. In 1400, a new Jubilee was held at Rome, during which, Boniface extorted large ſums of money from the people who attended, by every poſſible artifice. He was ſucceeded firſt by Innocent VII. and then by Gregory XII. In the pontificate of the latter, a body of cardinals, ſupported by ſeveral chriſtian princes, called a council at Piſa. This took place in 1409, and it's object was to put an end to a conteſt, that diſgraced and diſtracted Chriſtendom. By it, both the then Popes were depoſed, and Alexander V. was at the ſame time elected. But the others, far from ſubmitting, continued to exerciſe their power, and all three had their reſpective partiſans. During this contention, the emperor Robert attempted to revive the imperial power in Italy, but the Viſconti family, not only prevented it,

but threatened all that country with ſubjection. On the death of John Viſconti, and his ſon Galeazzo, who left only a daughter, their ambitious projects were, however, defeated.

Ladiſlaus, king of Naples, in 1408, made himſelf maſter of Rome, after which, he was crowned king of the Romans, but was ſoon obliged to relinquiſh his pretenſions.

Alexander V. was dead, and had been ſucceeded by Pope John XXIII. who, as was ſuppoſed, had got rid of his predeceſſor by poiſon. He ſet out with excommunicating Ladiſlaus, at the ſame time preaching a cruſade againſt him. And he alſo excommunicated his rival Popes, who returned the compliment.

The emperors, for a conſiderable time paſt, had neither poſſeſſions or authority in Italy, but they ſtill exerciſed the right of creating dignities, and Sigiſmund now conferred the title of duke, on the count of Savoy.

All the chriſtian princes, who acknowledged the papacy, at length reſolved to cruſh the ſchiſm that had ſo long divided the church. For this purpoſe the council of Conſtance was call-

ed in 1414, and in the year following, it was determined, that the three contending Popes ſhould be compelled to reſign. John, who was preſent, apparently agreed to this; but attempting to eſcape from Conſtance, he was ſeized, and ſolemnly depoſed by the council. They went through the ſame form as to Benedict, who was not preſent, but who ſent them word he would die Pope. Gregory did not oppoſe their deciſion, and voluntarily reſigning, ſunk again into the dignity of a cardinal.

The emperor and many of the princes who attended, as alſo numbers of the principal clergy, wiſhed to proceed to a reform of the church before they gave it a new head. This was oppoſed by the cardinals, by every artifice in their power; and their intrigues and ſophiſtry at length prevailed. Inſtead of any alteration being previouſly made, the Pope to be elected was to be pledged to make every neceſſary reformation: and thirty deputies from the council were to aſſiſt the 23 cardinals who attended, in the choice of a proper perſon to fill that high office. Cardinal Otho Colonna,

an Italian of high birth, who took the title of Martin V. was then raiſed to the papal chair. This was in 1417, the council having continued till that year. The inſtallation of Martin was ſplendid beyond example. He rode in proceſſion to the cathedral mounted on a white palfrey, the emperor and elector of Brandenburgh walking on each ſide, and leading his horſe by the reins. The princes, ambaſſadors, and nobility who attended, to the number of between four and five hundred, and alſo the cardinals, biſhops and clergy, who were members of the council, followed according to their reſpective ranks. There never had been ſuch a meeting of the principal men of Europe, both lay and clerical; but it gives a curious idea of their notions of chriſtianity, when at an aſſembly called for ſuch a purpoſe, 718 courtezans were there by permiſſion, and under the protection of the magiſtrates.

Martin having ſecured the firſt office in the church had little inclination to enquire into its abuſes. He however readily indulged the barbarous ſpirit of the council, by a rigorous per-

ſecution of the followers of Huſs and Jerome of Prague. Martin, on repairing to Rome, found that the greateſt part of the territories of his ſee were poſſeſſed by petty tyrants, who had taken advantage of the diſtracted ſtate of the papacy, but by his exertions he very ſoon reſtored things to a conſiderable degree of order.

Martin in 1423 called a council to conſider of a reformation in the church. This he did merely to ſave appearances, and nothing material took place. He however found it neceſſary to pacify the leading princes of the late council of Conſtance by calling another at Baſil in 1431, but his death prevented its taking place.

Fourteen cardinals now compoſed the conclave. Before they proceeded to appoint a ſucceſſor to Martin they bound themſelves to each other, that in future no cardinal ſhould be made but with the privity of their college. They alſo fixed that one half of the income of the eccleſiaſtical ſtate ſhould be divided amongſt their body; and it was at the ſame time ſtipu-

lated, that whoever they elected ſhould call a general council.

Eugenius, who was choſen, began his pontificate with attacking the family of Colonna, which had been greatly aggrandized by Martin; and, agreeable to his vow, he called a general council at Baſil. This aſſembly really wiſhed to examine and rectify abuſes, and Eugenius as zealouſly endeavoured to prevent any effectual interference. Thinking he could manage them better if nearer to Rome, he adjourned the council to Ferrara. Far from complying with theſe orders, the principal clergy who had attended ſummoned him to appear before them as his ſuperior; and on his refuſal, they declared him contumacious. But the old veneration for papal uſurpation was ſtill too powerful, and the emperor and ſeveral other princes and members of the council attended at Ferrara. Many, however, remained at Baſil, who followed up their deciſion by depoſing Eugenius, and electing Amadeus, duke of Savoy, who aſſumed the title of Felix V.

On the death of Eugenius, the ſame party

that had favoured him raiſed Nicholas V. to the papal throne. Being a man of great prudence, he made conceſſions to the duke of Savoy that induced him to reſign his pretenſions. He alſo ſettled matters with the emperor Frederick III. by agreements called the Concordats. By them the eccleſiaſtical burthens were leſſened, but they did not go far enough to ſatisfy the electors of Germany, who, on the contrary, deemed them againſt the honor, the liberty and the intereſts of the empire. This Pope held a jubilee in 1450, and it had of courſe its pecuniary advantages. He alſo crowned Frederick at Rome in the following year, but the only act of power done by the emperor in Italy, was his creating Borſi, marquis of Eſte, to be duke of Modena and Regio.

At the cloſe of my laſt æra I pointed out the great ſcheme of Gregory VII. and his predeceſſors. Thoſe that came after, you have ſeen ſeizing every opportunity of aggrandizing the holy ſee at the expence of kings and the reſt of the laity. You have ſeen them exacting and receiving the moſt extravagant marks of reſpect.

You have ſeen them conferring crowns, erecting new kingdoms, and excommunicating and depoſing monarchs. To effect their purpoſes ſubjects were abſolved from their oaths of allegiance—kingdoms laid waſte under interdicts —ſons ſtirred up to take arms againſt their fathers—wives divorced from their huſbands. In ſhort, you have ſeen every principle of morality and chriſtianity ſacrificed wherever they interfered with papal ambition.

Cruſades or Croiſades, which mean the ſame thing, not only aginſt the Mahometans, but againſt all chriſtians who differed from the ſee of Rome, was one of the inſtruments of papal authority. The Inquiſition to try and puniſh heretics was another. In the 13th century three orders of monks who profeſſed poverty were added to the Benedictines. Theſe were the Franciſcans, Dominicans, and Auguſtines; and theſe four bodies of mendicants, who were ſpread over all the Catholic countries, were the zealous and ſteady ſupporters of the Pope. So indeed were all the other monkiſh orders; and even the regular clergy, from being enjoined celibacy, became

more attached to the head of the church than to their king, their fellow-ſubjects, or their country.

Such were the means uſed to obtain and preſerve its power; and the ſucceſſors of Peter were equally induſtrious in the acquiſition of riches. That of canonization was one part of their revenue; for to the right of beſtowing crowns on earth, they had added the privilege of giving them in Heaven. Annates, tenths, jubilees, indulgences, and pardoning ſins, were other fruitful ſources; and in point of territory, the donation of the counteſs Matilda had made them conſiderable temporal princes, their dominions in Italy now extending from ſea to ſea. Next to the popes the cardinals were the higheſt in wealth and power among the clergy, and they were ſtiled princes, with revenues ſuited to ſuch titles. The papal court had therefore for a long time been the moſt ſplendid of any in Europe, and the magnificence with which public worſhip was exhibited at Rome was, perhaps, never exceeded.

The firſt great blow the papacy received was

from the ſchiſm among the cardinals, which produced the contending Popes of Rome and Avignon, and afterwards the third elected at Piſa. Then followed the mortal wound to papal infallibility given by the council of Conſtance. It claimed a ſuperiority for itſelf and other general councils over the papacy; and it exerciſed it in a moſt exemplary manner by depoſing the three, and interfering in the election of Martin V. This was a very different language from that uſed at Rome in the year 800, in the council called by Charlemagne, where it was held that the Pope, being above all men, was alſo above being judged by any but himſelf. Such a change of opinion was a clear forerunner of the decay and ultimate downfall of this extraordinary power.

The Albigenſes and the followers of Wickliff and Huſs had already attacked the doctrines of the church of Rome. Many who had not yet expreſſed themſelves, entertained ſimilar ſentiments. Some of theſe were of high rank, who beheld with abhorrence the tyranny and extortion practiſed under the name

of religion. It was not however till my next æra that theſe well founded diſcontents openly broke out, and which were attended with the moſt important conſequences. The Greek church continued in its miſerable ſtate of vain diſputation and abſurd ceremonies till the deſtruction of the empire.

I ſhall here briefly mention the authors beſt worth naming during theſe dark ages. In the 12th century we find England producing Giraldus Cambrenſis, Jeffrey of Monmouth, and John of Saliſbury, all of whom were biſhops, that wrote on hiſtory, as did alſo William of Malmſbury a monk, and Roger Hoveden. In France Abelard a divine, was highly diſtinguiſhed for his learning and talents, and wrote ſeveral pieces. In Spain Moſes Maimonides, a Jewiſh author, got from his people the appellation of the Eagle of the Doctors. In the Greek empire Anna Comnena was a diſtinguiſhed hiſtorian. Arhominates Nicetas alſo wrote on hiſtory, and Euſtathius, an archbiſhop, was likewiſe a learned writer.

In the 13th century Mathew Paris, an Engliſh monk, was eminent in hiſtory, and Roger Bacon, a friar of the ſame country, wrote on various ſubjects, and had more knowledge than any man of that age. In France Joinville wrote on hiſtory. In Germany Albertus, another friar, treated of mathematics and other ſubjects. In Italy cardinal Bonaventure got from his writings the name of the Seraphic Doctor, and St. Thomas Aquinas that of the Angelical Doctor. Guido Aretine, a monk, invented ſix notes of muſic. Peter d'Apono, an able phyſician, wrote alſo on philoſophy; and Cimabue made a beginning to modern painting and architecture, at Florence. Abul Faragius, an Armenian, wrote a hiſtory of the world in Arabic. In Spain Alphonſo the wiſe, king of Caſtile, was alſo an able writer for thoſe times. And in the Greek empire Pachymerus and Acropolita were hiſtorians, the latter treating alſo on other ſubjects.

In the 14th century poetry began in England by Chaucer. In France Buridan diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his writings on philoſophy.

In the Greek empire Johannes Cantacuzenus, Gregorus Nicephorus and Calliſtus Nicephorus were hiſtorians; the two firſt on prophane, and the latter on eccleſiaſtical hiſtory. But in works of genius Italy now took the lead. In poetry Dante and Petrarch ſhone forth with luſtre, and Boccace in proſe compoſitions. In painting Bufalmaco, Giotto, Organa, and Spinello. Giotto was alſo eminent in ſculpture and architecture, as was Organa in the latter. Moſt of theſe were either born in Tuſcany, or particularly encouraged at Florence, its capital. During that part of the 15th century which has fallen in here, the only Engliſh author worth mentioning is Forteſcue, who wrote on the laws of England. In France Gerſon was diſtinguiſhed as a theological and critical writer. In the Greek empire Gemiſtus wrote on hiſtory; Beſſarian who was an archbiſhop, and Gaza, were alſo Greek authors, that contributed to literature. In Italy, which continued to take the lead, Maffæus wrote well in proſe and verſe. Bonfinius on hiſtory and other ſubjects. Gaſparini and Valla contributed to renovate

the latin language; and the cardinal de Cuſa, Poggius, and Leonard Aretine wrote ably on different ſubjects. In painting Franceſca was eminent, and he wrote on arithmetic and geometry. Thus you perceive knowledge and the fine arts were again dawning at the cloſe of this æra, and in my next you will find the world more enlightened than in any former period.

ELEVENTH LETTER.

IN the year 1453, all that remained of the Saracen empire, was Arabia, and the territories on the African coaſt between Egypt and the ſtraits of Gibraltar. But theſe were not united, Arabia having a diſtinct government, and the African ſtates being under their reſpective deys, and the emperor of Morocco. The Mamalucs of Egypt governed that country, as alſo Paleſtine and Syria. China had got rid of the Tartar princes, and was under a new dynaſty of it's own. That part of Aſia, ſubjected by Tamerlane, was now broken into different ſtates that were contending with each other, beſides their internal commotions, and all was diſtraction. Aſia minor acknowledged the Turkiſh prince, Mahomet II. who, as you have ſeen united Greece, Conſtantinople, and the ad-

jacent European countries, to the Ottoman empire.

In the reſt of Europe, ſeveral nations were emerging from barbariſm, and others getting under better and more ſettled government. Spain, which had been broken into ſo many petty ſtates, had now nearly expelled the Saracens, and had only four diſtinct chriſtian kingdoms, the reſt being conſolidated in them. Theſe were Caſtile, Arragon, Navarre, and Portugal. Germany had reduced it's numerous component parts into a conſiderable degree of order. And in Italy, much was done towards giving a ſtability to it's different forms of government. The obſervation I have ſo often called your attention to, of the progreſſive population of the world, is again verified, in the inſtances of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, which are now become of ſome conſequence: and in that of Ruſſia, which is juſt beginning to be heard of as a regular nation.

During the æra now under conſideration, knowledge of every kind had almoſt entirely diſappeared in Aſia, and was tranſplanted to

Europe: whilſt at the cloſe of that period, which ended in 1085, what little was then in the world, you have ſeen nearly confined to Conſtantinople, and the remains of the Saracen empire. This introduction of knowledge into what had been the weſtern Roman empire, had already operated againſt the papal power. From the time of Rome's being taken by Genſerick, in 455, to the death of Gregory VII. barbariſm had almoſt hourly increaſed, and ſo did the power and claims of the Popes. The intercourſe with the Eaſt, that aroſe from the cruſades, let in whatever light could be derived from Conſtantinople and Aſia, and as it increaſed, the blind ſubmiſſion to the ſuperſtitions of Rome declined.

The change of laws and government in this æra, is highly worthy of attention. In 1085, the ſpirit of chivalry was in full vigour, and blended in it a ſtrange mixture of ſuperſtition, a knowledge of arms, an attention to the ladies, and ignorance of almoſt every thing that was uſeful. They were, however, fit inſtruments for the cruſades that followed, and were,

unknown to themſelves, to be the means of making a moſt deſirable change in the affairs of Chriſtendom.

Before the cruſades commenced, it was deemed a happy regulation, which the clergy were able to eſtabliſh—that all private war ſhould ceaſe, during the celebration of all the great chriſtian feſtivals, and alſo from Thurſday evening in every week, till the Monday morning following, and this was called the truce of God. In France, Spain, and parts of Germany, there were alſo ſocieties, the chief of which was called the holy brotherhood, whoſe province it was to take upon them the protection of the oppreſſed, and to puniſh offenders, there being then no regular laws or courts of juſtice. But the abſence of the knights, gave the kings of Europe opportunities of encreaſing their power. The rights of the people, hitherto ſlaves, were alſo growing, in conſequence of the wars in Aſia. The nobles who went there, ſold privileges to the towns and cities in their territories, in order to enable them to appear with numerous followers, and with ſplendour:

and many after their return did the ſame, to repleniſh their empty coffers. The kings, alſo found it neceſſary to ſupport this third eſtate, to balance the power of the great vaſſals: and at length the nobles likewiſe thought it prudent to court them, to guard againſt the growing authority of the crown. The laws were alſo aſſuming in every country a different aſpect. Inſtead of the barbarous trials by the ordeal, or ſingle combat, the code of Juſtinian was ſtudied and attended to, and regular courts of juſtice, and fixed laws began in all the weſtern kingdoms of Europe to be reduced into regular ſyſtems. Men of high birth began to ſee other lines, than that of arms, of riſing to eminence; and the conſequence was, that eloquence, ſcience, literature of all kinds, and the arts, attained a very high degree of excellence in the æra I ſhall next treat of.

The progreſs of literature from the death of Gregory VII to the final deſtruction of the eaſtern Roman empire was extremely ſlow. The firſt attempt at the revival of letters in Europe, was by the Minſtrels or Bards of Pro-

vence, who accompanied the cruſaders, and who were witneſſes of the extraordinary ſcenes in Aſia, in the conteſt with their Mahometan opponents. Their imagination, heated by the pomp and ceremonies of the field which they ſaw, and ſtill more by the extravagant ſtories which they heard, gave riſe to a number of ſtrange compoſitions, ſince called romances, and in which knights, ladies, dwarfs, taliſmans, necromancers, and wonderful adventures abounded. Theſe were written in the language of Provence, which, though barbarous, was at that time the leaſt ſo of any in Europe. As chivalry declined, ſo did this kind of compoſition, and poetic allegories followed, in which vice and virtue, appetites and paſſions, were perſonified. Both in poetry and proſe, Italy took the lead, as it did alſo in the arts. But univerſities had been founded in other countries, and we ſhall hereafter ſee the fruits of ſuch inſtitutions.

As Italy was foremoſt in literature, ſo was it in commerce and the arts. At the time of the cruſades commencing, they had cities where

freedom was in ſome degree eſtabliſhed, and which poſſeſſed a number of ſhips that were employed in carrying proviſions and neceſſary articles to Aſia for the ſupply of thoſe who had gone there from Europe. Theſe veſſels brought back the commodities of the eaſt, and as the Italians acquired wealth they got a taſte for painting, architecture, and the conveniencies and luxuries of life. They planted the ſugar cane in Sicily, and they cultivated the ſilk worm, and had ſilk manufactories. They caſt glaſs for mirrors—engraved on plates of copper—produced paper from linen rags, and made earthen ware in imitation of porcelain. Next to Italy Flanders flouriſhed in commerce, many of her cities having alſo obtained charters and freedom. It became famous for the manufactures of linen and woollen cloths, and alſo for tapeſtry; and painting and architecture had made a commencement. Bruges was the greateſt emporium in Europe at the cloſe of this æra. Beſides the home manufactures of the Flemings, the naval ſtores and other commodities of the north of Europe were brought

to that city. The produce of Italy, and a conſiderable part of what the Italians imported from the eaſt, alſo found their way there. Moſt of the Engliſh wool likewiſe went to Flanders, that manufacture being as yet in its infancy in England. In theſe Italian and Flemiſh cities where commerce thus prevailed, comfortable habitations and magnificent public buildings appeared. The cities of Venice, Genoa, Florence, Bruges and Ghent, were particularly conſpicuous; whilſt London and Paris were miſerably off in their dwellings, and almoſt deſtitute of any thing deſerving the name of architecture. The art of navigation had been nearly confined to the Baltic and Mediterranean ſeas till the Portugueſe diſcoveries. The mariner's compaſs which had been lately diſcovered, was of the utmoſt importance in that branch of knowledge, and its vaſt conſequences will hereafter appear. The invention of gun-powder had made a great change in the art of war, and from preventing, in moſt inſtances, the conteſt of hand to hand, rendered it leſs ferocious and bloody. In the article of

religion genuine chriſtianity was making ſome powerful ſtruggles to break through the dark veil of papal impoſture and gloomy ſuperſtition. And upon the whole, the European world had aſſumed an aſpect more favourable to man than any that had appeared from the time the weſtern Roman empire expired.

END OF SEVENTH VOLUME.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM